

Rahal urges Israeli pullout from Lebanon

BAALBEK (AP) — A U.S. congressman said Tuesday an Israeli withdrawal from a flashpoint border enclave in South Lebanon will boost peace hopes in the Middle East. "It's obvious there has to be a withdrawal of Israeli troops in the south and a securing of the Lebanese border by the Lebanese. Once that occurs, I have the utmost confidence peace will be at hand," U.S. Representative Nick Rahal told reporters in this ancient city in eastern Lebanon. He spoke after touring Roman ruins in the famous Baalbek castle in the Bekaa Valley. Despite major obstacles in peace negotiations between Syria and Israel, Mr. Rahal struck an upbeat note about a comprehensive Middle East peace. "I'm confident there will be a peace agreement. We want to see the sovereignty of Lebanon maintained in this process. We want to see a comprehensive peace in the entire region," he said. "But I'm sure there will be ups and downs and frustrations before that day is reached," he added.

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Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki on Tuesday addressed a major gathering at the Royal Cultural Centre attended by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other senior officials to mark the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday (Petra photo)

PLO, Israel agree on pullout timetable

Arafat, Peres work on redeployment

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel took a big step towards expanding long-delayed Palestinian autonomy with an agreement announced Tuesday setting a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from occupied parts of the West Bank.

The deal came during talks between PLO and Israeli delegations that began Monday in this Red Sea resort on clearing the way for Palestinian elections. Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met for a second time Tuesday evening after making headway in five hours of the day before.

The Palestinians won the definite timetable, which they had long demanded, but agreed to allow Israel more time to complete the withdrawal, which will take until at least February 1997.

"We have for the first time an agreement on withdrawal, redeployment, and a timetable for this purpose. We have asked for that from the beginning," PLO spokesman Marwan Karanfani said.

U.S. starts proceedings against Abu Marzouk on Israeli-filed charges

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. government began extradition proceedings Tuesday against a political leader of the militant group Hamas, arresting him on Israeli charges he was financed and authorized "terrorist" acts in Israel.

A complaint by Israel said Musa Abu Marzouk, who has lived in the United States for 14 years, engaged in conspiracies to commit murder, manslaughter and other crimes in Israel or against Israeli citizens.

Mr. Abu Marzouk was detained at Kennedy International Airport on July 25 because his name was on a U.S. government list of suspected "terrorists." The Immigration and Naturalization Service has asked he be barred from the United States because he appears to be involved in "terrorism."

"We decline the gracious offer of the United States government," his lawyer, Stanley Cohen, said with sarcasm.

Mr. Cohen has said his client is not a "terrorist" and is not linked to violence.

A complaint unsealed at the hearing said Mr. Abu Marzouk is the head of the Hamas political bureau, which it said is the "highest ranking leadership body in the organization."

The complaint added: "This bureau has responsibility for directing and coordinating terrorist acts by Hamas in Israel and the

Jordan Times

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Turkey: No federation with Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (RI) — Turkey has no ethnic problem and setting up a federation to resolve an 11-year-old Kurdish separatist rebellion is out of the question, Interior Minister Nahit Menes said on Tuesday. "It is not possible for us to accept such ideas as a federation," Mr. Menes said in the first public reaction by a government minister to an academic report released by an influential business group last week urging Ankara to improve its treatment of Turkey's more than 10 million Kurds. "Turkey has no ethnic problem. We shall preserve its unitary structure," he told reporters on a visit to Diyarbakir, the biggest city in the mainly Kurdish southeast. The report, released by the Union of Chambers and Trade Bourses, included a rare poll of more than 1,200 Kurds, most of whom said they would choose autonomy or being part of a federation if they had the chance to change Turkey's political structure. More than 17,500 people have died in the fight by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for independence of autonomy.



Members of a refugee family from Krajina ride on the back of a lorry fleeing the town after the Croatian army recaptured the town from rebel Serbs (AFP photo)

Grand ceremony marks the Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday attended the Kingdom's major ceremony marking the Prophet Mohammad's birthday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki delivered an address in which he paid tribute to the historical role of the Hashemite family since the time of the Prophet.

Dr. Karaki said Jordanians were inspired by the Prophet and the message of Islam, describing it as "a light coming out of the sky to end the ages of darkness."

He said on this anniversary Jordanians were pinning great hopes on the leadership of King Hussein. "At this eternal anniversary, we look to Your Majesty, who defends the unity of the nation and its right to life and freedom, to give us determination to continue our march," Dr. Karaki said.

Jordanian Ambassador to Tunisia and renowned poet Haidar Mahmoud also spoke at the ceremony, delivering a poem in which he dwelt on the Hashemite's role in defending holy places.

Senator Kamel Al Sharif also delivered an address and said Muslims in various parts of the world, on this anniversary, remember the Prophet, review their achievements and plan their future.

Mr. Sharif said the Prophet's message brought with it development to the Arab Nations and united it.

The senator said Islam and Arabism were one entity, describing those who try to separate the two as "people trying to separate the head from the body."

In another address, Minister of Awqaf, and Islamic Affairs Abdul

Satam Al Abbadi said the Prophet not only conveyed to people a divine message, but also offered them a model and an example to follow and imitate.

Dr. Abbadi said Muslims dealt with the Prophet in a unique and unprecedented manner due to his way in building society and leading the masses.

He said people nowadays were in dire need to follow the path of the Prophet and adopt his methodology and philosophy.

The minister extolled the King's leadership and said His Majesty was actively leading his people through one of the most difficult stages in its history and at the same time was attempting to offer solutions to problems plaguing the Arab World.

"There you are, Your Majesty, trying to translate the Prophet's history into true stands supporting the oppressed and the weak, aiding refugees, and offering aid to the injured and care for orphans," he said.

At the end of the ceremony, King Hussein distributed Al Kawakab medals of the Third Order to those who contributed to building mosques in various parts of the Kingdom.

The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal, Prince Hamzah and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the King's advisors, ministers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the directors of the Public Security and Civil Defense departments and other senior officials.

Sheikh Zayed, Assad discuss Arab rifts

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The presidents of Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met here Tuesday in a fresh bid to mend long-standing rifts caused by the 1991 Gulf war and reunite Arab ranks.

President Hafez Al Assad greeted Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan at Damascus airport, and the two went directly to the Al Shae'eb guest palace for talks.

They were expected to focus on Arab reconciliation and the need for greater cooperation to face emerging regional challenges stemming from the Middle East peace process.

Sheikh Zayed flew from Alexandria, where he had similar talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday.

Syria and Egypt are signatories to the so-called "Damascus declaration," a defense pact formulated in March 1991 after the Gulf war with the UAE and the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

The purpose was to form an Arab force to defend the Gulf states if they were again threatened.

But the alliance never got off the ground, because the Gulf states preferred to rely on the United States and other Western powers for their protection.

Efforts that Islamic countries can make to help Bosnian Muslims were also studied, an official said.

Sheikh Zayed went on to hold a third meeting with Amr Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Arab League, on improving inter-Arab ties.

Largest refugee exodus under way in Croatia

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Shells slammed down on columns of Serb refugees Tuesday, the United Nations said, as more than 100,000 people fled a stunning defeat by the Croatian army.

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up at the border between Bosnia and Serbia.

Aid agencies said the Serb exodus from Croatia could total 200,000 people.

Evidence mounted that some of the refugees were coming under attack.

Kris Kanowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said a group of refugees near Topusko was shelled Tuesday, either by Croat or Bosnian government artillery.

Basing his account on reports from UNHCR field workers near the shelling, he said an unknown number of people were killed. U.N. spokeswoman Leah Melnick said six shells landed on a stretch of road crowded with refugees in the space of three minutes.

There were also reports of "indiscriminate shooting of refugees" south of Zagreb, said Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations for the former Yugoslavia. He could not say how widespread the reports were.

Another U.N. official, Chris Gunness, said Ukrainian peacekeepers had seen Bosnian soldiers torching houses.

On Monday, Serb officials said Croatian jets attacked a refugee column trying to enter western Bosnia. Witnesses said five people were killed and many more were wounded. The UNHCR in Geneva said it had "Sketchy Reports" of refugees being shelled in the region, but could provide no details.

"All this added together is quite alarming," said Mr. Janowski, referring to the reports.

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli accused of spying for Iran

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli man jailed secretly for three months went on trial Tuesday on charges of spying for Iran.

Herzl Rad, 31, denied any wrongdoing, his lawyer said.

The case only became public Monday after a report in the Arabic-language London weekly Al Wasat, and information about the defendant and the charges remained sketchy (see page 2).

Radio reports said Mr. Rad was born in Iran and had recently lived in the United States, where he ran a clothing business.

According to parts of the charge sheet released Tuesday, Mr. Rad is accused of contact with an enemy agent and espionage, charges that carry penalties of up to 30 years in prison.

He is accused of approaching Iranian agents in Istanbul at an undisclosed date and voluntarily going with them to Iran.

On the Occasion of

The Prophet's Birthday



ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the Jordanian People

its felicitations and

most cordial wishes

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1995

Israeli held for spying for unnamed Muslim country

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel on Tuesday refused official comment on an Arab magazine report it kidnapped an Israeli suspected of spying for a Muslim country but security sources said Israel had the man in solitary confinement.

Al Wasat, an Arabic-language weekly based in London, said on Monday that in June Israeli Mossad agents lured Herzl Rad, an Israeli in his 30s, from Austria to Turkey and then spirited him to Israel on a flight of Israel's state-owned airline El Al.

It said Mr. Rad was suspected of spying against Israel for Libya.

Israeli security sources said Mr. Rad had been charged with spying and contact with a foreign agent but could not confirm he had been kidnapped. They said only that he was suspected of spying for a Muslim country.

Israel's army radio quoted security sources saying the country was not Libya. Israel Radio said Mr. Rad's trial would apparently begin on Wednesday.

Tsion Amir, Mr. Rad's lawyer, told Reuters that a Jerusalem court had placed a gas order on the case and so could not comment except to confirm he was the man's attorney.

In an interview with army radio, Mr. Amir said he had requested the gas order be lifted. He indicated that parts of the Al Wasat report were exaggerated, saying: "There is a certain fantasy in this story that was published."

A spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Turkey said: "It's a great story, but it's just not true. No such thing happened. This is an attempt to spoil the good relations between Israel and Turkey."

Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres, asked by Israeli Radio to comment, said: "This is connected to the justice area and I don't want to say from good to bad or anything on this issue."

Security sources said Mr. Rad as a 31-year-old clothing merchant of Iranian descent who lived in Jerusalem. Israel Radio said he had tried to commit suicide three times in prison.

Israel's Maariv newspaper quoted a woman named Yael Raad, identified only as a relative of Herzl, as insisting he was innocent and adding: "Everything that has been published about Herzl been a complete lie."

The circumstances described in the Al Wasat version of Mr. Rad's capture hark back to the case of convicted Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu and lured by secret service agents from London and Rome and then brought by ship to Israel.

Mr. Vanunu, a former nuclear technician, was convicted of espionage and treason in a secret trial in 1986 and sentenced to 18 years in prison for providing the Sunday Times of London smuggled photographs of Israel's dimona nuclear complex.

Mr. Vanunu has been kept in solitary confinement since his capture and conviction.

Yossi Melman, an Israeli author of books on spies, told Israel Radio the tremendous interest aroused in Israel by the case arose from the secrecy maintained by the government.

"If we acted like a normal democratic country in the West where in a spy case the details are released by the protocol of the court... our emotions would be reduced," he said.

Sudan imposes visa requirement for Arabs

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan, explaining its decision to require entry visas from Arab travellers, said on Monday its open-door policy had attracted criminals such as the international guerrilla Carlos the Jackal.

The Interior Ministry on Sunday announced that Arab travellers would need to obtain entry visas before travelling to Sudan, reimposing restrictions lifted five years ago.

Interior Minister Brigadier Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohamad Kharif told state-run Omdurman Radio that the new regulations applied to citizens of all Arab countries except Iraq and Syria and that measures were being taken to exempt Libyans from the rule.

He described the move as "a revision but not a retreat" from Khartoum's open-door policy towards Arabs.

"Sudan will remain the land of all Arabs... the principles that Sudan is the territory for all Arabs still stands," he told the radio.

Some Arab and Western countries, including neighbouring Egypt, charge that Sudan harbours militants plotting to overthrow conservative governments in the region.

Last month Cairo, which accuses Khartoum of masterminding an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital Addis

Ababa in June, announced that Sudanese citizens should obtain visas before entering Egypt.

Khartoum denies any role in the assassination attempt.

Brig. Kharif said some countries which he did not identify had complained to Khartoum about the unrestricted entry to Sudan and urged it to re-consider the policy.

He said Sudan's policy over the past five years had attracted some criminals although the number of crimes committed by foreigners had declined from 11,000 in 1990 to 4,000 in 1994.

He pointed to the arrest of Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, in Khartoum a year ago. The Venezuelan-born guerrilla, wanted by several Western countries for murder, was arrested for the first time in 1994.

The minister also mentioned an Arab who took part in an attack at a mosque in Omdurman last year in which 16 people were killed and 20 injured. The man, identified as Abdul Rahman Al Khleifi, was later executed for his role in the attack.

Outside the Arab World, citizens of Ethiopia, Tanzania and the Central African Republic can travel to Sudan without visas as before, according to the Interior Ministry.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty to charges



DISPUTED LAND: Residents of Shalatina in the Halaib triangle dance to show their support for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Halaib is a disputed territory between

Egypt and Sudan and has emerged as the key point of conflict between the two countries (see page 12)

King Fahd tells cabinet system changes needed

DUBAI (R) — Saudi King Fahd has told the first meeting of his new cabinet that system changes in the kingdom needed to be implemented.

"We have succeeded in developing our systems and conduct more studies in this field," King Fahd, who is also prime minister, told the government which was formed on Wednesday. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The king did not elaborate on the proposed changes but said the main aim was the "welfare of the citizen."

In the first major shake up since 1975, King Fahd appointed 15 new ministers to the 28-man cabinet, including 20 holders of post-graduate degrees.

The king is pushing ahead with economic reforms in a bid to balance the 1995 \$40 billion budget which carries a \$4 billion projected deficit.

Riyadh, the world's largest oil exporter and producer, has been badly hit by weak oil price, recording a \$10.7 billion deficit last year despite cutting the budget by 20 per cent.

The agency's report, late on Monday, gave no details.

Asked by telephone what the group would do if Rome ignored its warning, Mr. Hamdan said: "You know Greenpeace. We will go to confrontation if diplomacy, which we tried many times, fails. We will no longer be Mr. Nice Guy."

The two containers found in the mountains were shipped outside Lebanon last month and the waste was incinerated: Environment Minister Pierre Pharaon has said.

Beirut port was controlled by the Lebanese forces, the main Christian militia, when the waste was shipped from Italy.

Mr. Hamdan said a statement by Italian Under-Secretary for Foreign Trade

of manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape Jensen, of Hirtshals, Denmark, in the beach resort of Ayia Napa, on the night of Sept. 12-13.

The three were serving at Dhikelia, a British military base 25 kilometres east of the Mediterranean resort.

Mr. Vassiliades, a student with a summer job in Ayia Napa, said he was driving Jensen on his motorbike shortly after midnight after filling up at a gas station where the three accused had also stopped with their beach buggy.

Later, when he tried to overtake them on the road into town, the driver of the car swerved to block the motorcycle's path, causing Mr. Vassiliades to lose balance and crash, he testified.

As he tried to remove Jensen's trapped leg from under the motorcycle, "I noticed the car had stopped about 20 metres ahead and then it started reversing towards me."

The soldiers bowed their heads and stared at the floor as they sat listening only four metres from the witness stand.

"I thought they were coming to help but the car was coming up so fast... I instinctively realised something was going wrong."

One of the three men in the car got out and chased Mr. Vassiliades away, threatening him with a shovel, he said.

When he looked back, Mr. Vassiliades added, "I saw the driver and the co-driver hitting her as she lay on the pavement. I don't know what was happening."

The girl was shouting for help and cursing them. She tried to get away, shouting my name. When the third man joined them, all three picked her up by force without saying anything. They put her in the back of the car on her back and left her legs sticking out of the side."

"I realised then, as a kind of premonition came over me, that the girl was lost," he said.

There was a hush in the court as Mr. Vassiliades paused to regain his composure. The chairman of the court asked him to turn and face the bench rather than the accused.

"I thought they were coming to help but the car was coming up so fast... I instinctively realised something was going wrong."

Mr. Vassiliades said he then hitched a ride into town, found a police patrol car and told them what happened.

Questioned by the state prosecutor, Petros Clerides, Mr. Vassiliades said he knew most people in the resort because he had lived and worked there during the summer holiday.

The attackers, he said, "were British servicemen. They were foreigners, not Cypriots."

The defendants were arrested 90 minutes after Mr. Vassiliades reported the attack. Police say they confessed after bloodstains were found on their clothes, on the seats of their car and on a spare found in the vehicle.

"At the police station I recognised them immediately. I expected to see the girl, but she was not there," he said. "And when I saw their car full of blood I realised she was a gone."

Jensen's body was discovered on Sept. 14 buried in a nearby field, naked and battered.

Greenpeace warns Italy over Lebanon toxic waste

BEIRUT (R) — Greenpeace told the Italian government on Tuesday to take back 10,000 barrels of toxic waste it dumped in Lebanon in the 1980s or risk a confrontation with the international environmental watchdog.

"It is our last warning to the (Rome) government to accept Italy's responsibility in the waste scandal," Greenpeace's Malta-based Lebanon campaigner Fouad Hamdan said in an open letter to Carlo Calia, the Italian ambassador in Beirut.

Greenpeace sent a copy of the letter by fax to Reuters in Beirut.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen opposition to close ranks

SANA (R) — Eight Yemeni opposition parties have decided to set up a joint body to coordinate their activities, a statement said on Tuesday. The parties, holding a total of 70 seats in the 301-member parliament, said they decided "to form a higher council of coordination" comprising their secretaries-general and two members from each party. One opposition source said the move was "to develop and activate the role of the opposition parties concerning political, social and economic issues." Efforts have been made to revamp the Yemeni political opposition, which was largely marginalised after the end of a two-month civil war in July 1994 between southern separatists and troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The eight parties include the Yemen Socialist Party with 65 parliamentary seats. The party ruled the former South Yemen until its merger with the North in May, 1990. Some of its leaders championed the secessionist bid, which was crushed when President Saleh's forces captured Aden, capital of the separatist state, on July 7, 1994. Yemen is ruled by a coalition government of Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress and the Islamist Islah party of Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar.

Knesset member Kaufman dead at 60

TEL AVIV (AP) — Right-wing lawyer Haim Kaufman, who rose from militia member to transport minister, died of an undisclosed illness Monday. He was 60. Kaufman, a member of the opposition Likud Party, was first elected to parliament in 1977. He served as transport minister, deputy knesset speaker, deputy finance minister and coalition chairman under former Premier Yitzhak Shamir. As a youth, Kaufman was involved in Menachem Begin's Irgun underground. Likud member Yossi Ahimeir, a former Shamir spokesman, will replace Kaufman in the legislature. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu remembered Kaufman as "a loyal friend and a loyal Israeli. We will miss him very much." Kaufman is survived by a wife and three children. A private funeral was to be held for him in Petah Tikva on Tuesday.

3 die in attack on Somalia convoy

NAIROBI (AFP) — Three people died in the southern Somali port city of Kismayo as a U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) convoy moved out of a warehouse and then came under attack, WFP spokeswoman Brenda Barton said in Nairobi Tuesday. She said shots Monday were first fired in the air to disperse bystanders, apparently by police — and that one person was killed by a stray bullet. About 20 minutes later the three trucks ran into an ambush and crashed, killing two bystanders, she said. The gunmen fled. The trucks nevertheless managed to deliver 60 tonnes of food to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) — Doctors Without Borders — and feeding centres. The food had been held up in the WFP warehouse for a week-and-a-half following looting of supplies and extortion, Barton said. Another 80 tonnes were due to be distributed Tuesday. Agencies are increasing food distribution in many regions of Somalia following reports of widespread starvation, caused by a combination of flooding, drought and poverty in the lawless Horn of Africa nation, which has been without a government since the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. The police in Kismayo are remnants of a force set up by the United Nations before U.N. troops pulled out of Somalia in March after two-and-a-half years.

Turkish workers hold mass protest strikes

ANKARA (AFP) — Almost 600,000 public sector workers were taking part in strikes or slowdowns on Tuesday, in a 24-hour action aimed at winning wider trade union rights and unblocking wage negotiations, union sources said here. An official of Turk-Is, the country's biggest union federation with 2.7 million members, said workers had been asked to be present at their workplaces, but to either slow down or stop work altogether. The action, also supported by the smaller Hak-Is and DISK federations, was due to end early on Wednesday. The official, Yildirim Koc, said the action was aimed at winning union rights for public sector employees and at unblocking collective bargaining talks affecting some 680,000 workers. Turkish civil servants are forbidden by the constitution from joining a trade union. A resolution aimed at rescinding the ban was thrown out by parliament at the end of last month. The government offered only a four per cent wage rise, although inflation in Turkey is running at over 80 per cent annually. "We demand an increase which allows us to protect our living standards," Mr. Koc said. The industrial action follows a Turk-Is demonstration attended by between 60,000 and 100,000 workers in Ankara on Saturday.

Graduates knock out Cairo's phone network

CAIRO (

BRIEF

Premier lays office foundation stone in Balqa



SALT (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a four-storey building in Salt that will become the offices of the Balqa governor and administrative staff.

According to George Kildani, acting director of the Public Works Department in Balqa, the 4,282-square-metre complex will be set up on a 7,500-square-metre plot. The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the completion of the structure in 400 days, Mr. Kildani, an engineer, said.

He said at a briefing,

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday lays the foundation stone for the new Balqa Governorate complex which will make available 4,282 square metres of office space for the governor and staff (Petra photo)

attended by Sharif Zeid and other officials, that the project, which will cost JD 826,622, should be ready for occupancy by September 1996.

He said that the complex will also include a large car park.

\$24m loan to finance construction of fertilisers plant

By Khaled Zubeidi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Nippon Jordan Fertiliser Company (NJFC) is to receive a dual currency syndicated loan totalling \$24 million to help finance the construction of a compound fertilisers plant near the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) industrial complex in Aqaba in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The loan provided by four Jordanian banks and the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will be in the form of \$12.2 million and JD 8.12 million, and has been guaranteed by the JPMC and the Arab Potash Company (APC) to be repaid over a nine-year period.

According to the NJFC, the project, which will cost a total of \$24 million, will be completed in 27 months and

will become productive early in 1997.

The loan has been arranged and managed by the Arab Bank and Citibank. The Housing Bank, the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank as well as the SSC have participated in the loan,

according to a statement following the signing ceremony held at the Arab Bank's headoffice.

The statement noted that the plant is expected to produce 300,000 tonnes of compound fertilisers annually, most of which will be marketed in Japan adding that the project will be set up on 55 dunums of land.

The plant, which the NJFC says will employ 155 workers, is expected to earn \$30 million from its sales in the first year rising to \$60 million annually in the following two years.

Arranging a loan of this size for a project, especially in foreign currency in addition to local currency, confirms the existence of significant opportunities to provide financing for viable projects, particularly those

executed in order to enhance exports, the statement said. It added that the indispensability of such a loan stems from the fact that it is one of the few dual currency loans that have been extended to the private sector without Jordanian government guarantee.

Rather, the statement said, it has been extended due to the viability of the project, a fact which will undoubtedly create new opportunities to further financing other viable projects, the statement added.

Present at the signing ceremony were Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, the chairman and general managers of the JPMC and the APC and the participating banks, and representatives of the borrower.

House condemns Israeli decision on Al Aqsa

Amman (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday condemned an Israeli court decision allowing the Jewish Temple Mount Faithful group to enter Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and perform their prayers in it.

In a statement issued Tuesday the House said the repeated attempts by the group to enter the mosque coincide with the attempts made by Israeli settlers and extremists to encroach upon the sanctity of holy places elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement said such Israeli attempts are a blow to the peace process in the region, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and reflect the resolve of the Israeli authorities to pursue attempts at expansion and hegemony.

"While the House expresses its anger over and condemnation of the Israeli court's decision, it calls on

all countries concerned with the Middle East peace process and all international bodies and organisations to shoulder their full responsibilities in putting an end to the repeated Israeli attempts and to pressure Israel into accepting the United Nations resolutions on the holy places in the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem."

The House also called on the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) members to urge their governments to make every possible effort to press upon Israel to repeat the court decision in order to undermine the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace.

Also Tuesday the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs strongly denounced the Israeli court's decision, declaring it illegal because it was issued by a body that has no right whatsoever to pass any ruling or decision on the Arab city of Jerusalem.

On Monday an Islamic-Christian Committee issued

a statement condemning the Israeli court's decision and called for its reversal, saying that it has no legal basis.

The statement, which followed an extraordinary meeting of that committee chaired by Senator Kamel Sharif, lauded the Jordanian government's position and praised the efforts made by the Aqsa Mosque guards and the residents of Jerusalem to prevent the Jewish group from entering the place of Muslim worship.

The committee said the decision reflects the Israeli authorities' indifference for the feelings of Muslims and Christians, and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.

"The Israeli court's decision leads to more tension and clashes, and sparks feelings of enmity between Arabs and Jews", the statement said.

The committee includes Muslim and Christian scholars and religious leaders.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

* Concert by Elias Karam at the Main Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Seminar on the 100th anniversary of the cinema with the participation of Haitham Haqqi of Syria and critic Adnan Midanat at the residence of late Khalid Mnaizil at 6:30 p.m.

* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, late Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract art, and children's art.

LECTURE

(in Arabic) "The Status of the Islamic Movement and Arab Parties, and Their Role in the Upcoming Israeli Elections" by Sheikh Abdullah Darwish of Palestine at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Painting by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Bejet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.
- * Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.
- * "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.
- * Handicrafts and souvenirs at Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century, French Cultural Centre.

Visiting Islamic leader says peace treaty put end to 'Jordan is Palestine' claim

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of the Islamic movement in Israel, Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Issa Darwish, Tuesday met in Amman with Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti and later told Jordan Television that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty had laid to rest claims from Israeli extreme rightists that Jordan is the substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

The Likud Party, which could eventually assume power in Israel, advocates the 'Jordan is Palestine' theory, but with the peace treaty in force it is clear that the idea is entirely unfounded, said Sheikh Darwish.

The process can only succeed when Israel recognises the full rights of the Palestinian people, including Arab Jerusalem with all its Christian and Muslim shrines, Sheikh Darwish said.

The key to peace or war in the region is Jerusalem, and Israel has to respect and return the Arab rights to Jerusalem and comply with United Nations resolutions and implement its agreements with the Arabs in order to establish peace, he said.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday meets with Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Issa Darwish, who is visiting Jordan from Israel (Petra photo)

added.

Jordan Television quoted Sheikh Darwish as saying that the Islamic movement in the country were strong and served as a basis for stability and prosperity in the Kingdom as well as an example to other Arab states.

During the meeting with Mr. Kabariti, Sheikh Darwish discussed several issues of common concern to Jordan and the Israeli Arabs.

Jardaneh, Yemeni minister review Jordan's economic restructuring programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development and Planning Abdul Qader Bajamal met Tuesday with Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh for a briefing on the Jordanian economic restructuring programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the APC for \$30 million annually.

endeavours to reduce or reschedule its debts to foreign countries.

At the meeting the two sides reviewed prospects for Yemeni-Jordanian cooperation in financial affairs.

Mr. Jardaneh expressed his ministry's willingness to provide Yemen with the related expertise.

Earlier Tuesday, the Yemeni minister and his delegation met with senior officials at the Ministry of Planning and were briefed

on the planning of economic projects undertaken by several government departments.



Basel Jardaneh

20 JBA representatives prepare for trade, industry talks with Turkish counterparts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) said Tuesday that it has started preparations for a second meeting of the Jordan-Turkey Business Council next month in Istanbul.

At least 20 Jordanian businessmen representing various economic sectors in the Kingdom are expected to take part in the four-day meeting starting on September 20, according to JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a, who will lead the Jordanian team to the meeting.

The committee includes a statement that the council is expected to review a programme of trade and industrial cooperation between Turkey and Jordan and explore the prospects of mutual cooperation at the regional as well as the bilateral level.

The JBA team is also preparing ideas and proposals to be submitted to next month's meeting dealing with Jordanian-Turkish ventures in food processing industries, contracting, communications and tourism, added Mr. Tabba'a.

The Jordanian business-

men will tour industrial centres and factories and will hold separate trade and industry talks with their Turkish counterparts.

According to a JBA statement, the council, which groups members of the JBA and the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council, was established last year and held its first meeting in Amman last October with the attendance of more than 70 Turkish businessmen.

Since the beginning of 1995, the JBA has hosted several Turkish business delegations for discussions on trade and joint ventures, the statement added.



Hamdi Tabba'a

Airport modernisation project to focus on Aqaba — Jweiber

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) project to modernise the country's airports and facilities the CAA is paying particular attention to Aqaba airport as it will be converted into a full service international airport, according to CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber Tuesday.

Of the JD 60 million allocated for the airport modernisation programme, the CAA plans to spend JD 27 million on the Aqaba airport so that it can accommodate a significantly larger air transport operation, Mr. Jweiber said. He added that the authority is currently studying bids submitted by several international firms to conduct the conversion at Aqaba.

He said that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to finance the Aqaba phase of the airports upgrading project.

In the meantime, said Mr. Jweiber, the local firm is constructing new airplane

hangars at a cost of JD 500,000, and housing units for CAA employees are being built which will cost the CAA JD 140,000.

The CAA's annual JD 2 million budget is spent on maintenance at various airport facilities in Jordan, Mr. Jweiber said.

At Queen Alia International Airport, Mr. Jweiber said, teams are upgrading passenger zones and improving sanitation facilities at a cost of JD 160,000, information systems for a cost of JD

500,000, and the airconditioning system for JD 200,000.

At the moment being added the CAA is supervising the asphalting, by a local firm, of the northern runway. The cost of that alone is JD 1.22 million. Improving the meteorology system, a project being conducted by a French company, will cost JD 500,000.

Mr. Jweiber said the plan includes using the Marka Civil Airport in Amman for domestic and short-range flights. The CAA, he said, has allocated JD 7 million to modernise that airport's facilities.

Since the opening of QAIA, the Marka facility has been used mainly by Arab Wings, the Civil Aviation Academy and the Royal Falcons as well as the Gliding Club.

The Marka airport will be used this October to receive participants to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference.

He said he expects the full modernisation project to be completed by the end of 1998.

Murayama reshuffles cabinet; key posts remain unchanged

TOKYO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama reshuffled his cabinet Tuesday, retaining his key foreign, finance and trade ministers but naming an influential private researcher as his economic planning chief.

The reshuffle ended five days of haggling over whether Mr. Murayama's key allies — Yohei Kono of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake Party head Masayoshi Takemura — should stay as foreign and finance ministers respectively.

In the end, Mr. Murayama successfully persuaded the two to keep their posts, enabling the embattled Socialist prime minister to preserve a delicate balance in his three-party coalition.

Trade Minister Kyutaro Hashimoto, who successfully resolved a heated car dispute with the United States also kept his job.

The reshuffle — Mr. Murayama's first — involved most government ministers but, with the key players still in place, fell far short of a fundamental revamp of the 13-month-old government in the wake of the coalition's poor performance in upper house elections last month.

Mr. Murayama's only surprise appointment was new Economic Planning Agency Minister Isamu Miyazaki, a private researcher at the Daiso Institute of Research.

He is the only non-politician in the new line-up. Mr. Miyazaki's appointment was apparently part of Mr. Murayama's efforts to show his government was serious about propping up the sagging economy, which is

struggling to pull out of a prolonged recession.

"The new cabinet will take the issue of economic recovery seriously, and stress the importance of reforms," new Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka said after announcing the new line-up.

Nosaka said the cabinet reshuffle was necessary because the outgoing cabinet had already been in place for the usual length of time Japanese ministers stay in place.

Mr. Nosaka, Mr. Murayama's right-hand man in the Socialist Party and the outgoing construction minister, also takes on the role of top government spokesman. LDP Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori got the job of new construction minister.

Mr. Murayama preserved the basic framework of his 20-member cabinet — 13 posts for the LDP, five for the Socialists and two for Sakigake.

Economic Planning Agency chief Miyazaki counted as a post for Sakigake because the party recommended him.

The widely anticipated lack of major changes — despite the cabinet taking as its slogan "fresh and new" drew media criticism.

"There is no fear of a split in the three parties," Mr. Murayama told reporters after reaching an agreement with fellow party leaders over changes to the increasingly unpopular cabinet.

The reshuffle took much negotiating, with Mr. Kono hoping to leave his ministry to concentrate on securing his reelection as LDP party leader in elections next month.

"I believe Mr. Kono eventually understood my firm stance," said Mr. Murayama, who is seeking to revive the government after his party's setback in elections to the upper house of parliament last month.

Some coalition members have made it clear they do not share Mr. Murayama's optimism. "We are not sure whether we can continue the close relations which we have maintained so far," said a senior official of the ruling was formed in June last year.

The average age of the cabinet members was 62, considerably higher than the previous cabinet. Mr. Murayama did not name a single woman to his new cabinet.

At least 33 killed in Colombia rebel attacks

BOGOTA (AFP) — At least 33 people were dead and more than 20 wounded in rebel attacks around the nation marking the first anniversary of President Ernesto Samper taking office, officials said Monday.

The dead included 14 police personnel, six soldiers and 13 guerrillas, according to police. The rebel's objective in the

attacks which broke out Sunday was to mark Samper's first year in office and press for peace talks, said army General Camilo Zuniga.

The heaviest fighting came in the town of Miraflora in the southeastern department of Guaviare where some 200 to 300 rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attacked Sunday.

Negotiations between the government and Colombian rebel groups currently are stalled.

Argentine ex-admiral dismisses dirty war 'fantasies'

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Ex-Admiral Emilio Massera, most infamous of Argentina's military rulers during the "dirty war" on leftists in the late 1970s, insisted that the human rights crimes he was convicted of were pure "fantasies."

"It didn't happen. If there were any cases you would have to prove it and it has not been proved. It's all fantasies," said Adm. Massera, who was navy chief during the 1976 military coup and a member of the three-man ruling junta for two of the bloodiest years of its campaign against leftist guerrillas.

Adm. Massera, now 69, was appearing on television

for the first time since he was sentenced to life in prison 10 years ago on 83 charges of murder and hundreds more of kidnap, torture, robbery and extortion.

Little aged since then, and easily recognisable with his bushy eyebrows and thin lips, Adm. Massera has avoided the hostile public eye since he and his junta colleagues were pardoned by President Carlos Menem five years ago.

But he broke his silence last week to criticise army chief General Martin Balza in the Navy Mechanical School (ESMA), Buenos Aires' most dreaded clandestine torture centre, were thrown to their deaths from secret flights over the Atlantic and River Plate.

"But what exactly happened in the ESMA?" Adm. Massera asked his Argentine television interviewers, adding that he had never given or obeyed "immoral orders."

In defence statements at his trial, Adm. Massera said he was responsible but not guilty for what happened.

Mr. Clinton said ultimately any shutdown would be Congress' fault. "They will have to vote or not vote to lift the debt ceiling," he said. "They will have to vote or not vote for a continuing resolution to let this government go on."

"I will have no role in that."

Mr. Clinton has threatened to veto several of the appropriations bills as they have passed the House of Representatives, including measures to slash or kill dozens of government labour, health and education programmes and gun enforcement of environmental protection laws.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said earlier the Republicans were willing to use the debt ceiling to force Mr. Clinton to accept budget cuts. The ceiling of \$4.9 trillion is expected to be reached in October, forcing the federal government to shut down unless Congress votes a higher limit.

In a separate development, Senate Whitewater investigators were told that President Clinton was grief-stricken about the death of his boyhood friend Vincent Foster but was not told on the day Foster's suicide note was found.

Ex-presidential counsellor David Gergen described Mr. Clinton as "grief-stricken" when told of Foster's death on July 20, 1993. But presidential counsellor and former White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty said that, despite their closeness, when Foster's torn-up note was found six days after his death he did

not tell Mr. Clinton about it.

Mr. McLarty, who grew up with Foster and Mr. Clinton, said it was not a typical suicide note and he was perplexed by it. Otherwise, he gave no reason for not telling Mr. Clinton.

"I was perplexed by it and I made the decision not to tell the president," Mr. McLarty said. "It did not seem to me a matter that should be brought to his attention that night until we could review the matter."

Mr. Clinton was told the next day and he agreed to a plan to tell the police and then ordered the note turned over to Justice Department and other investigators," Mr. McLarty said.

"I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington," Foster wrote in the undated handwritten note that was found in the bottom of his briefcase. "Here ruining people is considered sport."

Foster was a law partner with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Little Rock and in the White House he kept the Clintons' personal files, tax records and Whitewater investment papers.

The Senate panel is investigating whether any documents in Foster's office, including those concerning the Whitewater deal, were concealed from investigators of Foster's death.

Banking Committee hearing neither Mr. Clinton nor Hillary Rodham Clinton was connected to the failed Madison Guaranty — the now-failed savings institution owned by the Clintons' former partner in the Whitewater land deal — turned up no mention of Whitewater or the Clintons.

The House hearing opened with fierce partisan attacks as a Republican charged that the Clintons were part of an "Arkansas mafia" that benefited from a financial institution linked to their Whitewater land deal.

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The ceiling of \$4.9 trillion is expected to be reached in October, forcing the federal government to shut down unless Congress votes a higher limit.

"If you ask me I am going to blame at the end to avoid shutting down the government, the answer is no," Mr. Clinton told NPR in excerpts broadcast by the network.

"I will not be blackmailed into selling the American people's future down the drain to avoid a train wreck," said the president.

"Better a train wreck for a day or two or three or four, better political damage to Bill Clinton than damaging the future of millions and millions and millions of Americans."

When he was told a day later, Mr. Clinton immediately ordered the note be given to investigators, the senators were told.

Separately, former federal investigators told a House

not tell Mr. Clinton about it.

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Riot policemen drag one of their injured colleagues during violent clashes with striking construction workers in Panama City, Panama. The policeman was hit by a concrete block dropped by a demonstrator from the 18th floor of a building under construction (AFP photo)

27 injured in Panama riots

PANAMA CITY (AFP) —

Twelve police and 15 civilians were injured in riots Monday as construction workers and student sympathisers angered by possible government labour law changes battled with authorities.

Police detained 116 people during the clashes that rocked the capital and the north-western city of Colon, officials said.

Seven police officers were injured in the capital, three of them with burns suffered after student activists near the University of Panama tossed an incendiary device at a police vehicles, a police spokesman said.

One of the injured officers was in a coma after being hit with a cement block hurled from a rooftop, police said.

In Colon, some 70 kilometres northwest of here,

five police and 15 civilians were wounded in confrontations.

They said they have the backing of 49 unions with some 70,000 members in the banana-growing and construction industries and small businesses.

The workers and students Monday had set up barricades on several small streets and four major downtown avenues before clashing with authorities. Local radio reports said students hurled incendiary devices at an advancing police flank but there were no reports of injuries in such an incident.

The government shut down primary and secondary schools amid security concerns, but business as usual was under way in the capital's financial district and government offices.

Hutus slaughter 58 Tutsis in Burundi

BIJUMBURA (AFP) — A 100-strong Hutu commando

used machetes and knives to

slaughter 58 displaced Tutsis

— 25 of them children —

Burundian police said Tuesday as fears grew of reprisal killings and a descent into massive ethnic bloodletting.

The police said the attackers Monday used machetes and knives rather than guns at the Kaburantwa displaced persons camp in north-western Cibitoke province to avoid alerting nearby soldiers to the Tutsi-dominated army.

The assailants killed 18 women and 15 men as well as the children, then fled over the nearby border into Zaire, the police said.

The army accuses Burundian Hutu extremists of

cooperating in Zaire with Rwandan Hutus in refugee camps. Some of the Rwandan Hutus were members of the Interahamwe militias which carried out the worst massacres during Rwanda's civil war last year, when more than half-a-million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families were slaughtered.

The Rwandans in the camps were reported to be rearming, training, and carrying out cross-border guerrilla raids.

The Kaburantwa camp is one of a number in Burundi which house displaced survivors of ethnic killing in which tens of thousands died following the assassination of Melchior Ndayo, Burundi's first Hutu president, in October 1993, in a failed coup.

On April 6 last year, Burundi's new Hutu president, Cyrienne Ntaryamira, was killed when the plane in which he was travelling with Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, also a Hutu, was shot down over Kigali by unidentified assailants.

That attack triggered the civil war in Rwanda, which had the same ethnic mix as Burundi — 85 per cent Hutu and 14 per cent Tutsi.

Burundi's current president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, is also a Hutu, but the Tutsis hold the levers of power, especially in the security forces and the judiciary.

The massacre Monday

brings down the curtain on a period of uneasy calm in this tiny central African nation which followed a visit in mid-July by U.N. secretary General Boutros Ghali, who appealed for reconciliation.

Before his visit, ethnic killings were estimated to be taking place at the rate of 20 a week.

Virtually none of the killers are ever arrested or punished.

Locals ready to flee U.S. town as wildfire nears

CABAZON, California (R)

About 2,000 firefighters are trying to contain a raging wildfire as residents of a threatened southern California town prepare to evacuate on a moment's notice, officials said Monday.

The fire, which is about 50 per cent contained, has burned in sparsely inhabited areas until now and has destroyed only a few buildings and several vehicles, officials said. But winds were driving it towards the small town of Morongo Valley and it was only about three miles (five kilometres) away.

Hundreds of union members were arrested in Friday's melee after some 7,000 construction workers went on strike over the legislation under consideration in the assembly which they say would leave them defenceless

juries as a small army of people battle the blaze, equipped with 100 fire engines, 10 helicopters and eight air tankers used to drop fire retardant.

Becky Luther, a CDF spokeswoman, said.

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PERFECTLY HAPPY COUPLE: A picture of the Duke and Duchess of York locked in an affectionate kiss was Tuesday splashed over the British tabloid press, which suggested it was the embrace of a "perfectly happy couple." The moment that so delighted the tabloids came Monday during a celebrity charity golf tournament at Wentworth Golf Course, south-east England. Asked by a photographer, the Duke and Duchess — Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson — posed together arm in arm, the tabloids recounted. When Prince Andrew left to start his round, his estranged spouse wished him luck and the two exchanged an affectionate kiss. "This is not an engagement picture. We're not getting engaged, you know. We're already married," joked the Duke of York. Sarah, 36, and Andrew, 35, who were wed in 1986, have two daughters, Beatrice, 7, and Eugenie, 5. Despite their separation in 1992, the Duke and Duchess have remained close friends showing on several occasions in public a deep affection for each other. The tabloid press has not given up hunting for signs of their possible reconciliation.

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Slowly but steadily, Kobe limps back

By P.V. Vivekanand

MAKESHIFT shelters, mangled steel structures, long, deep cracks on key roads, burnt-out buildings and heavily propped-up bridges mark the skyline of Kobe, bearing witness to the devastating quake that shook Japan's second largest industrial and seafaring hub nearly eight months ago.

The quake not only killed more than 5,000 people and maimed thousands more but also overturned the very way of living in this city of two million people.

Thousands continue to live in prefabricated caravans provided by the authorities, waiting for their turn — which may take years — to go back to proper homes. Many remain in hospitals, undergoing treatment for injuries suffered in the quake that struck at 5.45 a.m. on Jan. 17.

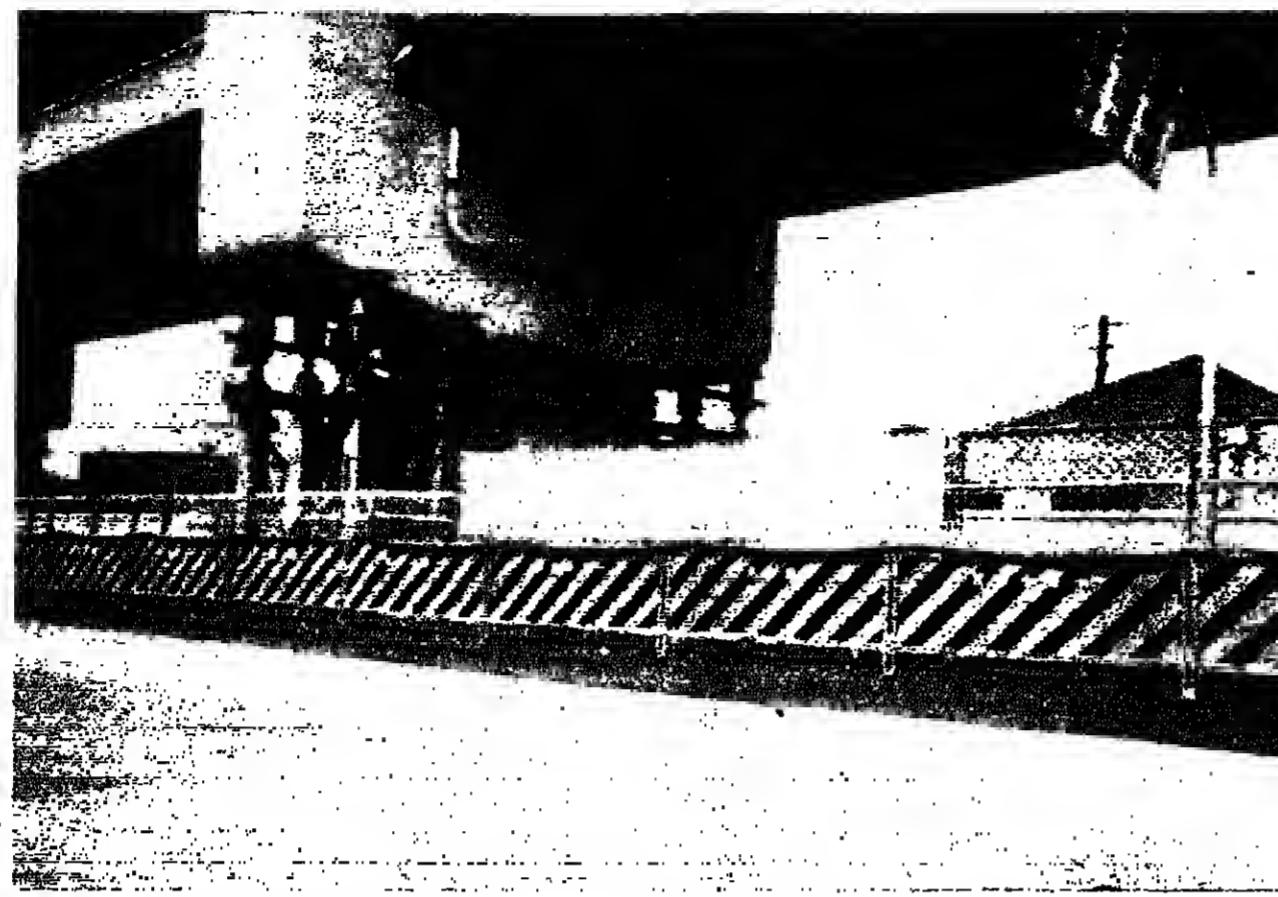
Erected in a park right in front of Shin-Kobe railway station are a few canvas tents — a stark reminder to anyone who steps off the high-speed Bullet train of the blow that the quake struck at the city in central Japan.

A forbidding atmosphere shrouds Kobe, but that could be deceiving as one gets closer to life in the sprawling port city, given the well-known Japanese will to survive and prosper against all odds.

As one drives into the busy town along the main boulevard, clearly visible are the devastation that the quake left behind.

Thick polythene sheets cover many multi-storyed buildings, keeping the busy workers perched on scaffolding away from the casual eye.

The sixth floor of an



Steel scaffolding supports a pillar to prop up an overpass in quake-hit Kobe (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

eight-storey building is completely missing; the seventh floor is sitting right on top of the fifth, having crushed the sixth.

Almost every concrete pillar in the typical superstructure that serves as the key long-haul motor highway 30 metres from the ground has deep grooves around it in Kobe City, exposing the steel skeleton inside. The highway is no longer operative, and the pillars are now surrounded with supporting steel structures, just in case. It could take years before the highway could be declared safe for transport.

At dozens of spots, the elevated road structure, at a lower level than the highway, stands high in the air, with the next section dozens of metres ahead with nothing between them.

With the next section dozens of metres ahead with nothing between them.

In a housing suburb a couple of kilometres from the city centre, prefabricated houses have mushroomed amid the charred remains of what used to be wooden buildings that were set ablaze by leaking gas pipelines after the quake.

Many of the concrete buildings look undamaged, but residents say they were all declared unsafe because of deep-running cracks in the walls.

Had the quake struck an hour later, residents say, the human loss would have been unmeasurable simply because people would have started on their way to work.

are missing from the bug sign that once proudly read "Kobe Port" at the entrance to the port. Most of the massive heavy-duty cranes are bent out of shape.

Cargo hangars on dozens of wharves have been shattered. Windows and roofs have been blown off, but the concrete and steel foundations that run deep into the water appear to have remained unshaken.

Local residents say that most of the traffic that Kobe used to handle is now diverted to other Japanese ports as well as ports in Korea across the Sea of Japan, depriving Kobe of the millions of dollars it used to collect for transit storage. But the local

authorities have kept the facility open, if only to ensure that port workers who represent a large segment of Kobe's population are not deprived of a living.

An amusement park just outside the port has escaped unscathed from the quake, but it no longer hosts anyone simply because the sole elevated access road has been severely damaged.

Despite the gloom and sadness that set in as one takes stock of the devastation the city suffered, life continues as usual in Kobe.

Business restaurants and shopping malls are crowded, with customers lining up two and three deep outside, many reading books and newspapers while others chatter away. Youngsters and elders alike are busy at "pachinko" parlours — a perennial feature of every Japanese city, town and village — playing pinball machines against deafening disco music. It is no direct gambling since winnings are given out in gift coupons of famous stores. Nonetheless, millions of yen are spent at the machines every day, and the lucky few convert the coupons into cash at the designated stores.

In the meantime, problems are looming for the thousands housed in temporary shelters in schools in Kobe. Many Kobe students missed most of the last school year, and the local authorities are under pressure to reopen the schools on schedule in September.

But where would the homeless go from the schoolrooms? It is a question that eludes a clear answer. The central government and other local governments have sent a lot of aid to Kobe, but it is not



A key road running parallel to the port split open by the Jan. 17 quake (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

enough to meet the massive need for housing.

Residents of two-room air-conditioned caravans on a long stretch on a side road running parallel to the port also face a similar problem. The compound is privately owned, and the owners feel eight months have been enough of waiting to start commercial building on the land.

"Kobe is the jewel of Japan," asserts the Japanese escort. "It may be slightly cracked now. But the cracks will be sealed soon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge renews Carlos detention order

PARIS (AFP) — A judge on Tuesday renewed the detention order keeping Carlos the Jackal in jail, 12 months after it was originally issued, judicial officials said Tuesday. Illich Ramirez Sanchez, alias Carlos, was arrested on Aug. 15 last year in Khartoum, and extradited to Paris to stand trial on a number of terrorist attacks in the 1980s. His official detention order was issued the following day by Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere. It was renewed on Tuesday, a week ahead of its formal expiration, by Judge Jean-Francois Ricard. He was originally charged and held in connection with the April 1982 Rue Marbeuf bombing outside an Arab newspaper office which killed one person and injured 63. Over the last year Carlos, the world's most wanted man before his arrest last year, has been formally charged in connection with a number of other attacks which left a dozen people dead in all. He had already been convicted and jailed for life in absentia in 1992 for the 1975 killing of two French policemen. Under French criminal law, a suspect can be detained for up to a year after which a new detention order is required.

Imam given new expulsion order in France

MONTBELIARD, France (AFP) — A bardine Turkish imam was jailed for two months Tuesday and banned from French soil for three years after defying a previous expulsion order from France, judicial sources said. Kasim Unal, formerly the imam of the mosque at Sochaux, eastern France, was arrested last month after sneaking back into the country in breach of an expulsion order issued a year ago. In the new case prosecutors had urged that he be jailed for three to five years and banned from France for three years. Unal, whose real name is Abdul Rahman Ciftcioglu, was expelled to Turkey last August for making "public threats... calling for a violent act against" the incumbent Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller. He was held in prison for several months by Turkish authorities before being released and permitted to leave Turkey.

5,000 arrested in Libya since June clashes

CAIRO (AFP) — Five thousand people have been arrested in Libya since clashes that broke out in June between Islamists and police in the northeast city of Benghazi, the Arab daily Ash-Sharq Al Awsat reported on Tuesday. The paper cited "well-informed" Libyan sources but did not specify the affiliation of the arrested nor where the arrests occurred. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi is on a tour of the Burqa region, east of Tripoli on the Mediterranean coast, which he started several days ago with a visit to Benghazi, the paper said. Troubles broke out in June when police launched a series of raids against suspected Islamists in and around Benghazi. Western diplomats in Tripoli said. The Arab daily Al Hayat said on July 11 that four policemen and three Muslim fundamentalists were killed in the incidents. In late July, Colonel Qadhafi stepped up his verbal attacks on Islamists, calling them the "shame of Arab nationalism" and an example of the "failure and loss" of the Arab nation.

Militiamen stage manoeuvres in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Thousands of volunteer Islamic militiamen began urban warfare exercises in southwestern Tehran on Tuesday, newspapers reported here. The six-day manoeuvres are being staged in the districts of Karaj, Savoshbolagh, Robat-Karim and Shahriar, the last two being the scene of violent riots in early April which left several people dead and dozens injured. The war games, organised by the elite force of the Revolutionary Guards, are aimed at displaying the militia force's ability to "ensure law and order," the newspapers said. The volunteers are grouped in the elite anti-riot "Ashura Brigades," which were created in 1993 after riots hit several Iranian cities.

Massive refugee exodus under way

(Continued from page 1)

ports of attacks on refugees.

The refugees exodus followed the three-day Croatian offensive that retook three-quarters of the territory seized by Serb rebels in a 1991 war and formed into a breakaway state called Krajina. There were no estimates of civilian casualties, which were believed to be high.

Croatia's Susak said the offensive ended Monday evening. U.N. officials reported little fighting Tuesday in Krajina, a crescent-shaped stretch of territory hugging northwestern Bosnia.

The United Nations said it brokered a ceasefire Tuesday between the Croatian army and rebel Serbs around Topusko. The agreement would give the refugees in the area safe passage to Serb-held northern Bosnia, said Rita Lepage, a U.N. spokeswoman.

But she said the agreement would not be formally signed until evening. A similar agreement Monday broke down when Croatia reneged on the deal.

But even as the Croats and Serbs planned for peace, witnesses reported a huge column of Bosnian Serb fighters heading towards Croatia's battlefields across the northern Serb-held section of Bosnia.

President Boris Yeltsin announced Monday that he wanted to host a meeting between Croatian President

Marzouk. (Continued from page 1)

years. He has spoken out frequently in support of Hamas, which President Bill Clinton has listed as a "terrorist" organisation.

The complaint unsealed Tuesday blames Hamas for the killings of at least 79 Israeli and foreign civilians and 40 military or security personnel since January 1989, and the injury of an additional 188 civilians and 98 military or security workers. It does not specify how many of those attacks Mr. Abu Marzouk is suspected of having direct involvement.

Specifically, the complaint accuses Mr. Abu Marzouk of transferring \$100,000 in 1989 to Hamas while visiting Gaza to reorganise the group's infrastructure after a series of arrests.

"Thereafter, his activity increased," the complaint said.

It said the most significant information against Mr. Abu

Marzouk came from Hamas member Mohammad Al Hamid Khalil Salah, who lived in the United States until he was arrested entering Israel in early 1993.

Mr. Salah has since pleaded guilty to charges arising from Hamas activity and was sentenced to five years in prison, the complaint said.

It said Mr. Abu Marzouk gave another \$100,000 in August 1992 to finance military

operations for Hamas and complained that money sent in the past had been diverted to non-military uses.

In Damascus, Hamas called on Palestinians to take to the streets on Friday to demand the release of Mr. Abu Marzouk.

In a statement faxed to Reuters, Hamas urged Palestinians to "denounce" the U.S. authorities' detention of Mr. Abu Marzouk.

President Saddam, in an address to the nation last month, gave warning that

Iraq would halt cooperation with Mr. Ekeus and suspend his commission's activities in the country if he failed to close investigations into its germ warfare file by the end of August.

A team of international arms experts is expected to arrive in Baghdad soon as part of the U.N.'s verification activities. Mr. Ekeus said he would also return to Baghdad soon.

President Saddam, in an address to the nation last month, gave warning that

he would not let the settlers take it again," said landowner Zreiq Abu Ayyash, 56.

"We hear about peace, but on the ground we see settlers taking over our land. I don't want to read about peace in the newspapers. I want to see it on the ground," said Mr. Abu Ayyash.

He said he had ordered district police commanders "to clear any roads that are blocked using all legal means at their disposal."

Mainstream settler leaders launched a new offensive Monday to try to scupper the negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

But their occupation of two hills on the West Bank made little impact and only a small number of activists remained on the site on Tuesday.

Representatives of the 130,000 Israelis living on the West Bank were to meet Prime Minister Rabin later Tuesday to discuss their grievances.

Mr. Rabin met a delegation of settlers on Friday but rejected their demand to halt the autonomy negotiations.

About 200 protesters, including dozens of orthodox Jews in traditional dress, scuffled with police and blocked the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway near Ben Gurion international airport for about 20 minutes Tuesday burning tyres and placing barricades. Police cleared the highway but protesters sporadically pushed the barricades back into the road.

Other demonstrators caused traffic jams in more than 20 places, including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. At least 50 people were detained.

The effort to broaden the protests from the occupied West Bank, where about three percent of Israel's Jewish population live, to Israel risked alienating hundreds of people trapped in traffic jams that had backed up for kilometres.

"They won't gain my support by holding me up like this," said Ninu Schintz, a doctor caught in the traffic jam. "They should do it somewhere else."

In Beit Ummar, Palestinians took back land seized in a campaign by Jewish settlers, witnesses said.

More than 300 Palestinians from Beit Ummar village south of Jerusalem used 15 tractors to destroy fence posts placed around their land this week. No settlers were present.

Mr. Hefetz earlier warned that police would use force to prevent right-wing militants from paralysing the country.

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Economy

Iraqi economy in wretched shape, Germans say

BONN, Germany (AP) — Iraq's economy is in such a shambles that even after the U.N. embargo is lifted, Baghdad will only gradually be able to rebuild and restore business links with the West, Germans who visited Iraq said Monday.

Iraq's economic infrastructure has all but collapsed after five years of U.N. sanctions, which coupled with war damage have plunged the country back into "pre-industrial age," according to U.N. officials.

German officials said there appeared to be moves afoot to loosen the embargo, with Iraq now able to purchase equipment for agriculture, power generation and sewage treatment as "humanitarian goods."

However, U.S. President Clinton has said the United States wouldn't allow lifting of the oil sale ban, the centerpiece of the embargo, until Iraq committed itself to fundamental change in foreign policy — unlikely while Saddam Hussein is in charge.

Even if the embargo were lifted, problems in restructuring Iraq's enormous debt are likely to slow Western trade and investment, said Peter Jungen of the Near and Middle East Association, a business lobbying group.

"There won't be a big bang," he said, adding that Iraq "runs the risk of having a terrible awakening when the embargo is lifted and there are expectations in the population that can't immediately be fulfilled."

Members of the association

visited Iraq Aug. 1-3 in coordination with the German government to discuss restoring German business with Iraq after the embargo is lifted. They met with Deputy Premier Tareq Aziz, Oil Minister Amir Rashid and other officials.

Germany's businesses, battered by revelations that Germans sold chemicals to Iraq that were used in weapons, have moved more cautiously than the French and Americans in discussing

the renewal of trade with Iraq.

But ultimately, financial rather than political considerations will determine the pace of trade with Iraq, Mr. Jungen said.

Battered by war damage and a lack of spare parts, Iraq's oil capacity is less than one million barrels per day (b/d) down from a pre-war OPEC quota of 3.4 million b/d, said Otto Plassmann, director of the Near and Middle East Association.

Iraq's western debts, including interest, are estimated at about \$60 billion, Mr. Jungen said. Iraq apparently faces some \$100 billion in reparations claims.

Debt and reparation payments will bite into the income Iraq earns from its reduced oil capacity, he said.

Germany was Iraq's biggest non-military trade partner in Europe before the war, with about \$2.5 billion in trade annually.

U.S. consumer gets mixed signals, advice

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. policymakers and Wall Street economists seem almost schizoid when they fuss and fume about the American consumer.

Part of the explanation is that the United States has a relatively strong safety net for its citizens, including social security and the medicare health system — but this is only a small part of the story.

In many ways, the American tax system rewards consumption and penalizes savings — exactly the opposite of the approach taken by many countries overseas, analysts say.

The United States has no national sales tax as such, and it taxes gasoline far less than most other countries, particularly in Europe and Japan.

It also does not have a value added tax, a kind of hidden cost added as products wind their way to the manufacturing process from raw material to finished product, that adds to the tax base while discouraging consumption.

Americans are often lambasted by policymakers for saving substantially less than people in other industrial economies and even less than citizens in some emerging economies.

In simple terms, lower savings rates mean there is less money for investment — which helps to raise productivity, wages and the standard of living and, by definition, economic growth.

The most recent statistics show that the U.S. savings rate in June was 4.1 per cent, the same as in May and slightly lower than the 4.2 per cent in April.

Japan and Germany, tough U.S. competitors in the trade arena, have savings rates that are at least three times as high, while Singapore and Taiwan, for instance, have annual savings levels of 40 per cent, according to analysts.

War fires cost Kuwait 1b barrels of oil — U.S. embassy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait lost over one billion barrels of oil or one per cent of its sole natural resource in 1991 Gulf war oil fires, but its huge reservoirs appear to have escaped lasting damage, a U.S. embassy report issued Tuesday said.

The Gulf state's oil industry now needs to settle unresolved questions about political support, foreign involvement and tender procedures as it starts a new phase of growth, it said.

"Despite the oil lost through the blowouts, estimated at more than one billion

barrels, Kuwait is still one of the world's oil giants," an embassy survey of the oil sector said, echoing loss estimates made by other analysts.

"While many of the scars will never be erased, reconstruction of the oil sector is largely completed. Kuwait has now entered the next phase of its development as a major force in the world oil industry," the survey added.

It said expansion plans would offer many opportunities for local and foreign firms and increase Kuwait's role in world oil provided

Kuwait could resolve political and commercial issues.

The report said Kuwait's main fields lost 1.074 billion barrels during the seven months of fires, leaving about 96 billion barrels of recoverable reserves. It said that put Kuwait third behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq in size of reserves.

Increased water content in the oil after the war did not appear to have been caused by long term damage to reservoirs.

"While the volume of oil lost through the blowouts was

enormous — equal to almost 30 years of Kuwaiti consumption at current rates — it appears the country's reservoirs suffered much less damage than was once feared," the report said.

Iraqi troops retreating at the end of a seven-month occupation set over 600 wellsheads on fire, caused more than 70 to gush oil wildly and damaged at least 100 others in other ways. They also blew up some refineries and gathering centres.

Kuwait has spent \$2.5 billion in restoring production. Another Western embassy

estimates the cost of losses from oil ignited or spilled at \$50 billion.

Plenty of challenges remain, the report said, including the task of persuading parliament to continue to fund further expansion of production capacity. Kuwait also had to decide what role, if any, foreign oil companies should play in shoring up its position in a competitive world market.

"Finally... the country desperately needs to develop a more streamlined, transparent process for the soliciting and awarding bids for major

projects," the report.

Kuwait plans to spend \$15 million to raise capacity to 3.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by the year 2005 from almost 2.5 million at present, among other projects. It has an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries allocation of 2.0 million b/d.

Oilmen are examining ways of developing wells with foreigners' capital and technical expertise in return for

some form of participation. But diplomats say slow decision-making on some construction contracts could delay expansion.

Singapore turns 30, braces itself for more competition

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore celebrates 30 years of nationhood Wednesday amid warnings that the prosperous island state's economy will grow at a slower pace and face greater competition from its less affluent neighbours.

The bigger challenge for the nation, already bugged by increasing business costs and higher wages, will be its for-

mal "graduation" to developed-nation status next year, government leaders and analysts say.

In the run-up to National Day, the republic of fewer than three million people has been basking in a celebration of its economic success, tempered by a sense of caution.

"We cannot take the good life for granted. The managers and workers in our

neighbouring countries are working just as hard and are as smart as we are," said Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong. "And their salaries are less than one-third to one-quarter of ours."

Mr. Yeo warned at the weekend that Singapore may lose its position as a magnet for foreign investors to its South East Asian neigh-

bours, which have larger domestic markets and lower costs.

Analysts are worried that soaring wage and business costs could take a toll on the economy, expected to grow at an average rate of seven per cent to 2000 after back-to-back 10.1 per cent growth rates last year and in 1993.

Local industries are concerned their competitive edge could be blunted by wages that rose seven to eight per cent last year on a 10 per cent appreciation of the Singapore dollar, which has risen a further five per cent so far

this year against the U.S. dollar.

Business costs rose by 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 1.9 per cent in the previous quarter, while labour productivity growth slackened to 2.8 per cent from 3.8 per cent, official statistics showed.

"As Malaysia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries feverishly develop their own service industries to check their deteriorating services account deficit, Singapore will surely be in for some good competition."

Nigeria wages war on 'ghost' workers

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's military government has declared war on "ghost" workers in hopes of slashing huge monthly salary bills in the face of economic down-turn, officials here have said.

The federal government is carrying out what is officially described as "staff (personnel) audit" to flush out fake or non-existent workers in the 300,000-strong civil service which the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have said is bloated.

The exercise, which started

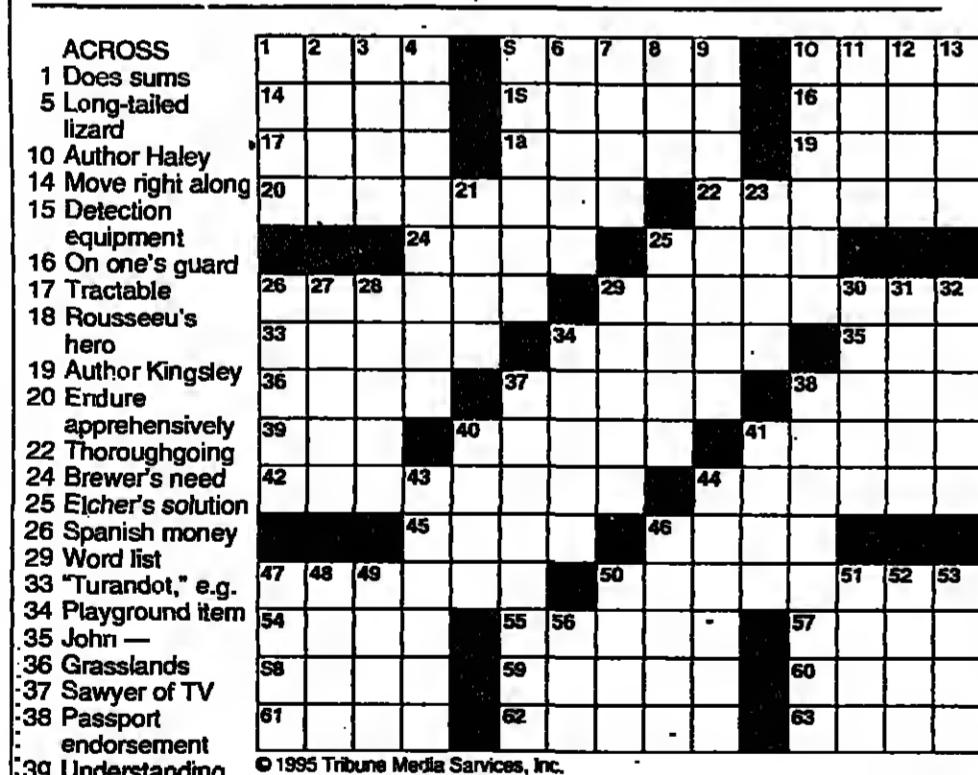
last month in all government ministries and agencies, requires workers to physically present during a verification exercise, with credentials such as appointment letters, letters of promotion and academic qualifications in hand.

Less than a week into the exercise, some ministries are already requiring the discovery of thousands of "ghost" workers. For example, the federal ministry of works announced here that it discovered more than 3,000 people who had been receiving salaries for no work.

And the Kaduna state government, in northern Nigeria, announced this week that it had discovered about 4,000 "ghost" secondary school teachers. The state only has about 8,000 secondary school teachers.

In the eastern state of Enugu, more than 1,000 workers face sacking because they are either medically unfit or have been found to have defrauded the government, some by receiving pay in two different ministries of the state government.

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray



Puzzle solved:

CHARS	CIST	OVAL
ROBOT	ERIE	DALE
ALLOY	COPE	ELLA
MEETME	INST	LOUIS
CARPET	FED	
AGUA	OEDA	GUMBO
SINGIN	IN	THETRAIN
TOTER	MESA	SITE
IMPOSE	ITS	TRADER
NAUGNTY	AREA	
CUTE	HAUL	DRAIN
ANTE	ELSE	EDICT
NAYS	RUES	RANKS

43. Prediction, 44. Tableware, 46. Flat finish, 47. Heat measures, abbr., 48. avis

49. Israeli airline, 50. shark, 51. Ice skatingfeat, 52. Grain grinder, 53. Corridors, 56. One — kind

1. Does sums, 5. Leaf interstice, 6. Complete range, 7. Mine entrance, 8. — de mer, 9. Three digits for diaries, 10. Oscar and Tony, 11. Dalai —, 12. Ireland, 13. Kin of a stoa, 21. So long, 23. Ascend, 25. Dress style, 26. Lively dance, 27. Fencing swords, 28. Cornery and Penn, 29. Endocrine, e.g., 30. River of Italy, 31. Bouquet flowers, 32. Irish author, 34. Fathered, 36. Hated, 38. Actress Hamel, 40. Engendered, 41. A Reynolds.

Across and down answers are interconnected in the grid.

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Business & Finance

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Corporation to supervise, control food nearly ready for launching

** FINAL TOUCHES are being put on a draft law for a "Food Control Corporation." According to the minister of health, a special committee has laid down the basis for the corporation with the help of international experts from the World Health Organisation. The aim of the corporation was to supervise all types of food and the usage of insecticides and hormones, to tighten control over all food-related matters and to end the multiple controls over food safety. The minister said the corporation, if it is successful, would be independent with a size and budget larger than the Ministry of Health. The preliminary suggestion is to have the ministry of health head the corporation to give it a push at the beginning but it will later be totally independent and related only to the prime minister (Al Ra'i).

** THE JORDAN Himeh Mineral Company is offering its shareholders, registered on March 12, 1995, the opportunity to buy more shares not exceeding 50 per cent of their equity as of the above mentioned date. The number of shares put for private subscription is 55,017 at JD 2 per share being JD 1 per value and JD 1 premium. Offer ends Aug. 31, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

** THE committee probing the unjustified-high exports of Jordanian shirts to the U.S. market has found that Jordanian certificates of origin were forged to allow exports of Chinese shirts to the U.S. The forgeries took place at the free zones of Abu Dhabi and Oman. The U.S. imposed a quota on Jordanian exports of shirts after discovering that normal annual sales of about \$12 million had shot up to nearly \$40 million (Al Aswaq).

** THE FIRST Jordanian company for hotel management and tourism marketing has been registered under the name Med Hotels Group. The company aims at managing and owning hotels, preparing and training hotel management cadres, managing and setting up fast food restaurants, establishing and participating in touristic projects as well as establishing clubs and touristic cities. These activities will be carried out in cooperation with other institutions or in agreement to manage hotels and restaurants in addition to training and preparing hotel cadres. Munther Saudi is vice-chairman of the board of directors (Al Ra'i).

** HAVING PAID JD 1.4 million in a final settlement to Petra Bank (under liquidation), the Jordan Medical Corporation (JMC) has improved its financial standing, with shareholders' equity becoming 29 per cent after having been negative in 1993. However, the corporation was unable to post a profit last year despite recording JD 929,286 of sales, 60 per cent higher than the figure for 1993. JMC attributed the loss to not being able to operate its factory at full capacity and to the total JD 2.66 million indebtedness to Petra Bank until July 31, 1994 when the final settlement was reached with partial relief coming from credit facilities obtained from the Amman Bank for Investment. The company, currently striving to produce 35 million syringes, has conducted studies to introduce new medical products and found foreign parties willing to participate in its endeavours (Al Dustour).

** ACCORDING TO Saad Bumieh, senior official at the Palestinian Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Palestinian Authority has issued import licences for \$1 million to Palestinian traders to import Jordanian products.

Toshiba, IBM to invest \$1.2b on advanced chip plant in U.S.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Toshiba Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) announced Tuesday plans to invest \$1.2 billion on an advanced next-generation semiconductor plant in the United States.

"We will establish the most-advanced production plant to lead the industry," Toshiba Vice President Masanobu Ohayama told a news conference.

The two companies said they would set up an equally-owned venture by the end of the year, with the aim of launching production of 64-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips in Virginia in late 1997. DRAM chips are used in

computers, multi-media products and information-processing equipment.

Construction of a new plant in Manassas, where IBM already owns a site, is scheduled to start in January next year and the joint venture will initially employ about 700 people, eventually rising to 1,200.

The new venture will be the second between the two companies, which already produce liquid crystal displays at a joint venture in Japan.

The Japanese electrical machinery giant said the new plant would strengthen its competitiveness and provide IBM with chip supplies at a

time of continued strong demand. Global demand for DRAM chips is expected to rise from an estimated \$23 billion this year to \$39 billion next year.

Although the plant will be Toshiba's first comprehensive memory production base overseas, Toshiba and IBM have for several years been jointly developing next-generation chips in the United States with Germany's Siemens A.G.

"IBM is the best partner for Toshiba's overseas production," Mr. Ohayama said, denying that Siemens would be involved in the latest plant.

Koichi Suzuki, the Toshiba

executive in charge of the company's semiconductor group, said the United States was the biggest DRAM market and had a well-established infrastructure such as power and water supplies.

Japan's biggest chipmaker, NEC Corp., and South Korean rival Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. are already producing 64-megabit DRAM chips.

The new plant will use 0.35 micron (one millionth of a metre) technology and the wafers will be shipped to Toshiba and IBM for final assembly.

Production of eight-inch wafers is estimated at more

than 27,000 units a month by the time the plant is in full operation in 1999. Marketing will be conducted separately by the two companies.

Michael Attardo, general manager of IBM's microelectronics division, said the announcement was an "important part of IBM's plan to further enhance its position as a major producer of leading-edge semiconductor products."

"We are committed to

meeting current and future demands of our merchant and internal customers," he said.

A Toshiba official said the joint venture marked the beginning of its plan to shift a third of its semiconductor fabrication offshore.

"Toshiba plans to conduct final assembly of most of the semiconductors at its Malaysian unit," the official said.

IBM Japan Vice President Kiyoshi Kishida said IBM also

planned to conduct final assembly of chips offshore, mostly in Germany, France and South East Asia.

The Virginia plant to be used by the joint venture has been idle since 1994, when IBM sold its federal system division and microelectronics division to Loral Corp., Mr. Kishida said.

Toshiba said the name of the joint venture and the amount of capital involved have yet to be decided.

Three large Chinese firms declared bankrupt

BEIJING (AFP) — Three major Chinese state-run firms, set up as long as 40 years ago, have been declared bankrupt with debts totalling tens of millions of dollars, the Xinhua news agency said Tuesday.

The Fujian Electronic Computer Co., until recently one of the top 10 industrial companies in the eastern province of Fujian, was formally declared bankrupt July 27 with debts of 142.3 million yuan (\$17 million).

At the same time, Xinhua announced an intermediate court in the southern province of Guangdong had issued bankruptcy papers for two major state-run firms set up nearly 40 years ago, the Shantou Sodium Hydrosulfate Factory and the Shantou Huangqiao Rubber Plant.

The 30-year-old Fujian company, once famous for its "Lark" brand computers, employed around 1,000 people and in the early 1980s posted annual net profits of \$10 million, before its fortunes took a sharp downturn. The provincial government

has set up a special group to deal with the case "since the debt involved is huge and the number of people to be resettled is too large," Xinhua said.

The two Guangdong firms — both established in 1956 — had long been suffering heavy losses and were unable to continue operations or repay their debts.

The hydrosulfate plant had been forced to suspend operations in 1993, while the rubber factory had suffered an overall loss of 21.35 million yuan (\$2.54 million) since 1993.

A court-appointed team has begun to clear the accounts of the two plants, Xinhua said, without specifying how many workers had been laid off.

Wary of the social consequences of mass unemployment, the Chinese government has been treading very warily with its bankruptcy experiments, restricting them to areas where redundant workers have a better chance of finding new employment.

Financial Times	
In co-operation with	
Cairo Amman Bank	
U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Current	New York
Close Date 7/8/95	Close Date 7/8/95
Starting Pound	1,6005
Deutsche Mark	1,4085
Swiss Franc	1,1660
French Franc	4,8565
Japanese Yen	91,37
European Currency Unit	1,3223
1.00 Per SGD	
Interest Rates	Date 1/8/95
Current	1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5,44 5,48 5,62 5,68
Sterling Pound	6,50 6,62 6,68 6,93
Deutsche Mark	4,18 4,18 4,18 4,25
Swiss Franc	2,56 2,54 2,62 2,81
French Franc	6,00 5,61 5,75 5,75
Japanese Yen	0,62 0,56 0,56 0,56
European Currency Unit	5,68 5,68 5,68 5,75
Interest rate for amount exceeding U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.	
General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rates Wallchart	Date 8/8/95
Currency	Bid Offer
U.S. Dollar	0,703 0,704
Sterling Pound	1,1208 1,1264
Deutsche Mark	0,4968 0,4993
Swiss Franc	0,5992 0,6022
French Franc	0,1440 0,1447
Japanese Yen	0,7666 0,7704
Dutch Guilder	0,4434 0,4456
Swedish Krona	---
Italian Lira	0,0443 0,0445
Belgian Franc	---
Other Currencies	Date 8/8/95
Current	Bid Offer
U.S. Dollar	0,703 0,704
Sterling Pound	1,1208 1,1264
Deutsche Mark	0,4968 0,4993
Swiss Franc	0,5992 0,6022
French Franc	0,1440 0,1447
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World Athletics Championships

Edwards twice breaks world record

GÖTEBORG (AP) — Gwen Torrence surged away from her great rivals Merlene Ottey and Irina Privalova to win the world 100-metre title while Dan O'Brien won his third decathlon championships in a row and Jonathan Edwards twice broke his triple jump world record.

It wasn't a day for surprises at the World Championships. Torrence, Olympic 200 metre champion, was fastest away from the blocks and clocked 10.85 to take her first individual world title while second place Ottey, the world 200m titlist from Jamaica, collected her 11th medal, a world championships record for either a man or woman. She has two golds, three silvers and six bronzes.

Ottey's time was 10.94 and Privalova, the European champion from Russia, had 10.96. Coincidentally, it was the same finish order in the semifinal although all three runners then were faster.

"You have to raise yourself to another level, when racing Irina and Ottey," Torrence said.

"I felt like I didn't see Irina ahead of me, I didn't see Ottey ahead and that was a plus. I could concentrate on myself. I didn't know I'd won for sure before I raised my arms."

"The 100 is the glory event — to be the fastest woman in the world — and I've been working on that since 1987," the 30-year-old American said.

Another American, Carlette Guidry, placed fourth in 11.07 but, despite an impressive series of fast times throughout the competition, never looked like challenging the first three.

O'Brien, who totalled a year's best 8,695 points, recovered from a shaky start to lead him trailing in second by 107 after three of the 10 events.

Despite failing to win a single discipline outright, the American hauled back the lead with big scores in the 110 hurdles, a 13.78 run, and the pole vault, 5.20 metres, and won by 206 points, a big victory margin.

Virtually sure of victory, O'Brien jogged his way through the final event, the 1,500 metres, and finished ninth in that race in 4:52.52.

Edwards, 18, from Belarus won the silver with a total of 8,489 and Canada's Mike Smith placed third with 8,419.

Edwards became the first man to break 18 metres and then the first to do so 60 feet. His opening leap of the competition was 18.16 (59 feet 7 inches). In the second round, minutes later, he went even further, 18.29 metres, (60-0 1/4).

With his first jump, the 29-year-old British jumper beat the 17.98 (59.0) mark he set at Salamanca, Spain, July 18. His leap at the Ullevi stadium was the first world record to be set at the worlds on the third day of competition.

Then he came up with another to surely put the gold medal out of everyone else's reach. After the second round, the second best leap



Gwen Torrence of the U.S. takes the start of the women's 100-metre event at the World Athletics Championships (AP photo)



Britain's Jonathan Edwards clenches a fist as he runs in the stadium with his country's flag following his victory in the men's triple jump (AP photo)

was a wind-assisted 17.59 by Dominica's Jerome Romain while Edwards' first two were well inside the 2 metres per second wind limit.

Brian Wellman of Bermuda won the silver with a leap of 17.62 and Romain took the bronze with 17.59. Yoclys Quesada of Cuba also leaped 17.59 but the Dominican got the medal because he had the better second jump.

Olympic champion Mike Conley of the United States placed seventh with a modest and wind-assisted 16.96.

"I didn't think I could do it. I've been petrified for the last three days," Edwards said. "I've had such a good season, but suddenly it could all go wrong, someone could come out and do a really long jump."

Michael Johnson, who is aiming for an unprecedented 200-400m double, cruised into the final of the longer

event, easing up as he clocked 44.91 to win his semifinal.

In the other, Jamaica's Greg Haughton ran the fastest time, 44.70, and finished well clear of world record holder Butch Reynolds, who had 45.10. The final is Wednesday.

A championship record also fell Monday, when Russia's Irina Stankina clocked 42 minutes 13 seconds to win the women's 10 kilometres walk. Elisabetta Perrone of Italy won the silver and Yelena Nikolyayeva the bronze.

The previous championship record was 42:57 by Russia's Alina Ivanova set at Tokyo in 1991.

Meanwhile, Jackie Joyner-Kersee flew home to the United States after her long jump flop, leaving behind her world heptathlon title.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
A deluxe ground floor apartment located at the main street in Jabal Amman, between the 4th and 5th circles, consisting of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious kitchen, three verandas, sitting lounge, a spacious salon and dining area. Independent central heating. Suitable for offices, clinics or housing. P.I. call Tel. 663344 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

FOR RENT

1 - Semi Villa (duplex)
Two Floor American Style Semi Villa (internal area 350 m²). It consists of: 4 bedrooms, 3 large saloons, 3 bathrooms, maid's section and garden 200 m². Private entrance. Located between the 5th circle and Rabia. Annual Rent: Eight Thousand Jordan Dinar (unfurnished)

2 - American Furnished Apartment
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Saloon L Shape, Veranda with all accessories (dishwasher, stereo, etc.) Solar system for hot water, Third floor, Located at 7th circle. Monthly Rent 550 JD (Available 6-10 month only)

please call tel: 826374 / 865263

TWANG Music Center Tel: 668410

Closing down sale is going on. But the prices of Young Cheng pianos will go up to the original on the 20th of August as very few of them are left.

Furnished flat with two bedrooms and an L-shaped salon is for rent. Please call 668410.

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Ground floor fully furnished flat with telephone available. 200 sq. meters, 3 bedrooms, large lounge, 2 bathrooms, separate central heating, electricity and water and garage. The flat is in the 7th circle area near the RAC. The rent is for a minimum of one year.

For inquiries: Tel. 821220 or 862951

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA

Meryl Streep with Kevin Bacon & David Strathairn in

The River Wild

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in

Easy to Get

(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" Adel Imam in Bekhit and Adileh

Shows 12:30, 6, 10:30

Ahmad Zaid in The Third Man

Shows: 3:30, 8:30

CONCORD "2"

SPEED

Shows: 9:30, 5:30

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Hi Citizen

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Abeer Issa

Ghassan Mashini

with Amer Khamash, Khalil

Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein

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The theatre closes on Monday

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Presents

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Welcome

Normalisation

Shows start at 8:30 p.m.

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NBA players are not giving up yet

Kanchelskis to defy United

LONDON (AFP) — Andrei Kanchelskis seemed poised to defy a Manchester United order to report for training and stay with Everton here on Monday — despite the breakdown of his £5 million (\$7.5 million) transfer. The 26-year-old Ukrainian thought he had ended his four year spell of Old Trafford, which was soured by a public fall-out with manager Alex Ferguson, when he was paraded at Goodison Park as Joe Royle's record signing. But the deal has collapsed after United overlooked a sell-on clause by Kanchelskis' previous club Shakhtar Donetsk, which entitles them to a sixth of the fee. And Russian international Kanchelskis, quoted in a national newspaper, said: "It's all been so confusing. I don't know what is happening and I don't know what to say or do."

Agassi could face Sampras in Open tuneup

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AFP) — World number one Andre Agassi and three-time Wimbledon Pete Sampras could meet for the fifth time this year at the ATP Championship here this week. But do not be surprised if two-time defending champion Michael Chang plays a major role in the 1.79-million-dollar tuneup for the U.S. Open, which begins in three weeks in New York. "It's difficult to defend a little. There is just so much pressure on you," said Chang, who has beaten Stefan Edberg in the past two finals here and seeks an unprecedented third crown. Agassi and Sampras have split their 16 career meetings. But Agassi has won three of their four matchups this year, the most recent at the Canadian Open finals. "There's a lot of hype when we play each other," Agassi said. "But hype isn't anything unless you back it up. We bring out the best in each other when we play." Sampras beat Agassi at the Indian Wells final, but lost in the Key Biscayne and Australian Open finals as well as at Montreal. Sampras was injured at this stage of last season and could have made up ground in pursuit of Agassi. But the man who replaced him at number one won in Washington and Canada and has instead stretched his advantage.

Gascoigne ready to show Rangers faith

GLASGOW (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne, the £4.3 million (\$6.5 million) England midfielder never appeared in Europe with Newcastle or Tottenham and then missed out twice on UEFA Cup participation with Lazio because of injuries. Yet, on Wednesday night with Rangers, the maverick footballer will enter a path to the multi-million pound jackpot of the Champions League. And, rubbing shoulders with Gazzza will be 25-year-old defender Brian Reid, also taking his Euro baptism after just five games in four years for Rangers. Smith confirmed Gascoigne and Reid are members of an 18-man squad for the European Cup preliminary round first leg against Anorthosis Famagusta at Ibrox on Wednesday night. Both are certain to play, with Gascoigne joining Dane Brian Laudrup and former England striker March Hateley as Smith's three foreigners while Reid partners Richard Gough and Alan McLaren in a new, three-man defence.

At 15, Williams still developing shots, toughness for pro tour

MANHATTAN BEACH (AP) — At times, Venus Williams forgot she was in the middle of the third match of a bidding pro tennis career.

She instinctively used her left arm to signal balls in or out, as if she was playing another practice match at home instead of first-round opponent Asa Carlsson in the Acura Classic.

She wants to launch her own athletics school but retains ambitions of winning an Olympic medal, the only one she has not yet in her collection.

Williams says she trains but adapts not with the same discipline as under Ma's dictatorial regime. That's one reason why she flopped so badly at the national championship this year and did not get a place in the Gothenburg squad.

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She wants

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1995 11

Papin denies Milan match-fixing allegations

PARIS (R) — French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin firmly denied Tuesday having said that Marseille had bribed two AC Milan players in order to win their first European Cup.

"There's nothing to confirm because it's all been made up," Papin told French radio RMC. "It's manipulation."

In Geneva, the European soccer ruling body UEFA said Papin might be summoned to explain the allegations but only if it was confirmed he made them.

"For us so far these are just rumours. It is not confirmed Papin has said that," a UEFA spokeswoman said.

"It is true that Papin has said that then we will ask him to appear in front of the (UEFA) disciplinary committee, to say it again

in front of the committee and to give proofs," she added.

Former Marseille striker Papin, who played in the final for Milan, was reported in Italian newspapers as saying that two Milan players took bribes to rig the 1993 final, won 1-0 by the French club.

"I had a friendly conversation with journalists and I told them there were rumours in Marseille about the final but I did not give names," Papin told RMC.

Papin's eye-opened "quotes" were splashed across the front pages of the main Italian sports newspapers.

Shocked French soccer chiefs said UEFA should summon Papin and demand evidence to back the allegations against Marseille, whose fortunes collapsed in a French match-

bish.

"It's completely ridiculous," Berne told Reuters. "You don't buy a European Cup final. Those so-called quotes are total nonsense."

Marseille were banned from European competition and relegated to the second division after being accused of rigging a French league game against Valenciennes shortly before the 1993 European Cup final.

UEFA President Leni Johansson said last month that UEFA was referring other new bribery allegations against Marseille to the French Football Federation.

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According to newspaper reporters, the allegations arose from police investigations into fraud at the club. Berne is reported to have told investigators that Marseille paid a bribe to secure a draw against AEK Athens in November 1989, an allegation that has been rejected by the Greek club.

"Papin doesn't know what he's saying and it's

Bayern could face FIFA rule over Klinsmann move

LONDON (R) — Bayern Munich could face disciplinary action for making an illegal approach to Joergen Klinsmann while he was playing for Tottenham Hotspur.

World governing body FIFA told the English Football Association (F.A.) on Monday that the German club had infringed their regulations regarding transfers and said they had referred the matter to their disciplinary committee for further deliberation.

But Bayern did receive FIFA backing in a dispute with Spurs over the transfer fee. FIFA said they had to pay only \$2 million to the English Premier League club for World Cup striker Klinsmann.

Klinsmann's decision to return to Germany after one season with the London club angered Tottenham chairman Alan Sagar, but FIFA ruled that the player was perfectly within his rights to leave Tottenham after only one year because of an 'escape' clause in his two-year contract.

They revealed that Klinsmann's contract with Tottenham contained a provision that they would be willing to release him any time after the first year (June 30, 1995) on condition that they received a transfer fee of \$2 million.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in a statement released by the F.A.: "The wording of this contract clearly contradicts Tottenham Hotspur's own argumentation it has, therefore, to be admitted that it was really the intention of the parties to fix the compensation in advance."

Blatter added: "It was Tottenham's own fault that they included such provision in the employment contract they had signed with the player, whatever the reasons for such a step would have been."

While FIFA are considering disciplinary action against Bayern, they have completely exonerated Klinsmann of any blame.

The statement added: "No reproach can be made against the player as to his behaviour in this case, and no disciplinary steps may be taken against him."

Police plan against hooligans at European Championships

LONDON (AFP) — Police outlined plans which will help prevent soccer hooliganism from ruining next summer's European Championships.

Intelligence gathering will play a key role, as will a "hooligan hotline" to encourage genuine fans to supply information, in confidence, on thugs.

Police forces from countries whose national teams qualify will be invited to send "spotters" — officers who will point out known foreign troublemakers.

And intelligence officers up and down the country are co-ordinating efforts to snare the principal organisers of the violence.

The launch of the hotline was warmly welcomed by Home Secretary Michael Howard. Referring to the violence which forced the abandonment of February's England v Republic of Ireland friendly in Dublin, he said: "We are already in liaison with foreign law enforcement officers to ensure we have good information for those hooligans from foreign countries, some of which have similar problems to the U.K."

Each of the 15 qualifying nations would be invited to send officers with specialist knowledge of their own country's hooligans, to help British police identify potential troublemakers.

Detective Inspector Peter

them to do so by making use of the hotline."

The National Criminal Intelligence Service, which is co-ordinating police efforts at the championships, said that 18 months of planning involving the Football Association, Home Office, Foreign Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers and individual police forces had already been undertaken.

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Iraq demands planes in return for peace with Iran

Ekeus must finish his probe into germ warfare this month — Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called Tuesday for a durable peace with Iran but urged it to return all prisoners from the 1980-1988 war as well as aircraft sheltered there during the U.S.-led Gulf war in 1991.

In a speech marking the end of Iraq's eight-year war with Iran, President Saddam said "we mistakenly believed" Tehran would return the 148 aircraft because had also been in conflict with the United States.

"If it wants (good) relations with Iraq, Iran must return Iraq's possessions," he said over state radio and television.

He also demanded Iran return all Iraqi soldiers taken prisoners during the war. "Our prisoners of war are still... suffering and moaning in Iranian prisons."

President Saddam renewed calls for peace with Iran even though he said it had ignored a total of 215 peace initiatives from Baghdad.

Iraq celebrates Aug. 8, 1988 as the day of victory over Iran.

The two countries have never signed a peace treaty, although they implemented a ceasefire in Aug. 20, 1988 and restored diplomatic ties on Sept. 10, 1990 when Iraq faced a U.S.-led military buildup over its invasion of Kuwait.

Ties between Tehran and Baghdad were broken in October 1987.

President Saddam said he refused to make concessions on Iraq's main demands even though Tehran believed Iraq was vulnerable because of the U.N. economic sanctions imposed after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We have told the Iranians who mistakenly believed that conditions could force us into accepting compromise at the expense of our principles," he said.

Iraq said it flew 115 military and 33 civilian aircraft to escape U.S.-led bombing in 1991, but Iraq claims to have sheltered only 22 planes and has offered to return them if the United Nations issues a



Saddam Hussein

tion of Iraq's past germ warfare activities by the end of August, a spokesman said in remarks published on Tuesday.

The spokesman for the Culture and Information Ministry said Iraq had made clear to the envoy, Rolf Ekeus, during his latest visit to Baghdad that it was standing by its deadline.

"Rolf Ekeus... was clearly and frankly told during his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday that he will have to close the biological file by the end of August," state-controlled newspapers quoted the spokesman as saying.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, visited Baghdad from Aug. 4-6.

In a news conference before leaving, he said he did not touch on the Iraqi deadline during his talks in Baghdad.

"This statement is inaccurate," the spokesman said, adding that Mr. Ekeus was told to inform the U.N. Security Council that Iraq had honoured obligations linked to renewal of U.N. curbs in its oil exports.

Iraq gave Mr. Ekeus a 530-page document on its past biological activities. He initially described the report as "full, final and complete" but said he needed time to verify its contents.

Later, he said that after the first scrutiny his experts found that the report might not be thoroughly complete.

The newspapers said Mr. Aziz informed Iraqi leaders in a meeting chaired by President Saddam late on Monday that he had communicated to Mr. Ekeus Iraq's "obvious and decisive stand vis-a-vis relations with UNSCOM and the Security Council."

The remarks by Mr. Ekeus when he wound up his visit on Sunday suggested it was unlikely he would finish his mission by the end of August.

Meanwhile, Iraq has told the U.N.'s chief arms control envoy that the United Nations must finish its investiga-

(Continued on page 7)

Cairo to release 20 Brotherhood members

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's high security prosecutor ordered the release on Tuesday of 20 members of the Muslim Brotherhood arrested in July on suspicion of seeking to overthrow the state, legal sources here said.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry set free 110 other Brotherhood members arrested in the same case, a day after prosecutors ordered an end to their detention, police sources said.

Both groups were among 180 people arrested July 28 in a secret camp near the north coast city of Alexandria in the largest sweep against the group since President Hosni Mubarak came to power in 1991.

The 50 still held in detention for investigation are accused taking martial arts training to perform "combat missions" and belonging to a secret organisation seeking to topple the government.

Banned in 1954, the Muslim Brotherhood has been tolerated since the mid-1970s when the group said it renounced violence in its bid to create an Islamic state in Egypt.

But police have stepped up arrests against the group since President Mubarak accused it in early 1994 of supporting armed Muslim extremists waging a violent three-year campaign against the state.

The Brotherhood denies the charges, saying the crackdown aim to prevent them from entering legislative elections planned for later this year.

Hamas appeal

The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas urged the Egyptian government on Tuesday to free the Brotherhood members.

"Hamas regrets the Egyptian government's arrests of members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and urges the authorities to free the detainees," Hamas said in a

Sudan says it will not relinquish Halaib

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan will "cling" to its rights in a disputed border region even as Egypt conducts an aggressive campaign to absorb the Halaib area, the head of Sudan's border police said on Tuesday.

"We pledge in the name of God not to leave you alone, Mubarak, and the sons of the movement are determined to liquidate you and destroy you, you will see," the group said in a statement.

After recalling that "Mubarak's heretical regime executed two mujahideen, the militant group said it would continue its holy war" as long as we are alive and until the fall of the regime."

"Aggression by Egyptian authorities in Halaib triangle is illegal and unjustified," Mr. Hussein said, underlining that Sudan possessed documents and evidence of its claim on the territory.

He accused Egypt of continuing "provocative acts by coercing Sudanese families into leaving Halaib town," despite Khartoum's "efforts to contain the situation and overcome the crisis."

The Egyptian army has massed "more of its forces in the triangle and at Argin town, north of the Sudanese town of Halfa," Mr. Hussein said.

It also welcomed a failed attempt by another Islamic militant group, the Gamma Islamiyah, to kill Sadat's successor, Mr. Mubarak, in Addis Ababa on June 26.

"We are convinced that the victory of God is close and the so of Jihad (holy war) are capable of striking mortal blows at apostates... what our brothers, the Gamma Islamiyah martyrs, did in Addis Ababa is the proof," the statement said.

Talaib Al Farah is considered the armed wing of Al Jihad, the fundamentalist group responsible for the assassination of former president Anwar Al Sadat in 1981.

Such "escalation will not contribute to settlement of the problem but will rather lead to further escalation," he warned.

Egypt says its border with Sudan runs along the 22nd parallel, placing the 18,000 square kilometres Halaib region in its territory, based on a 1899 treaty between London and Cairo.

Khartoum says the treaty was later amended to give it Halaib, most of whose population is ethnically Sudanese.



JUBILATION: Croatian soldiers rip a Serbian flag in Petrinja on Monday after they recaptured the important garrison city from rebel Serbs after four years of occupation (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the Prime Ministry where he met for a while with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Sharif Zeid on private visit abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker left Amman Tuesday on a two-day private visit abroad, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not say where Sharif Zeid was going.

Bridge to close for 2 days

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein Bridge on the River Jordan will be closed for traffic for two days as of Friday 11:00 a.m. for maintenance work, the Public Security Department said. The bridge will resume traffic as of Sunday morning Aug. 13.

Iran extends warplanes' range

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian engineers have extended the range of the Islamic republic's MiG-29 fighter jets by equipping them with in-flight refuelling capabilities for the first time, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The system will turn the twin-engine fighter jet into a warplane able to carry out multipurpose offensive and strategic missions, according to the state-run agency. It added that the automatic refuelling system will also increase the duration of reconnaissance flights and diminish the need to have air bases near Iran's borders that could be vulnerable to hostile action. Iran has two MiG-29 squadrons with 30 fighters, including four Iraqi MiG-29s flown to Iran during the 1991 Gulf war and not returned. The air force has another 13 squadrons of U.S., Russian and Chinese fighter and ground attack aircraft, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. Iran's efforts to enhance its military power have caused concern among U.S. military strategists, who fear a threat to Washington's oil-rich allies in the region.

Tough rules on weddings in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have imposed strict new regulations on weddings in Tehran to ensure they conform with Islamic standards, newspapers reported here Tuesday. They said police had issued a statement banning a range of activities traditionally associated with wedding ceremonies in Iran. Under the new measures, male and female guests must be separated and the groom is not allowed to visit rooms occupied by women. The bride must keep fully covered while moving about during the ceremony. Music bands are not to be hired and any singer invited must be approved by the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance, according to the statement. Males are not allowed to serve in the women's section and photographers can only take pictures of guests of the same sex. Any wedding procession in the streets must be kept low-key and the car carrying the newly-weds should not be elaborately decorated. Previous regulations have been widely defied despite close police surveillance.

Tehran rules out legalising party

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Interior Ministry on Tuesday ruled out any chance of legalising a pro-democracy opposition movement in Iran, but said the government would continue to tolerate the group. The Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI) would be allowed to continue playing an informal political role despite its "open criticism of Iranian leaders in foreign media," said Assadollah Badamchian, a member of a ministry commission in charge of political activities. Individual LMI members could run as candidates in the March 8 legislative elections, provided they pass thorough scrutiny by a supervisory council, he said in a press conference. Mr. Badamchian is one of five members of the ministry's Commission of the Article 10 on Parties, dominated by Islamic conservatives, which issues or revokes licences for parties or other groups to engage in political activities. Mr. Badamchian said the LMI, headed by former Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi, had been flatly denied formal political activities by the judiciary, although the group has appealed the decision. Last week, 122 liberal political figures belonging or close to the LMI signed a letter protesting extra powers granted by parliament to the Council of Guardians to oversee elections.

Arafat meets Palestinian dissidents

NABLUS (AFP) — Five dissidents from a Palestinian group opposed to autonomy have held reconciliation talks with Yasser Arafat, one of the men said Tuesday. The five are from Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC) which is fighting on against Israeli occupation and the self-rule deal. The dissidents said they asked Mr. Arafat to allow 100 PFLP-GC people to return to the Gaza Strip and hold an annual convention to oust Mr. Jibril as leader. "We told Mr. Arafat that we want to join the Palestinian Authority and take part in the reconstruction of our homeland," Salim Abu Al Saad told AFP. "The president of the Palestinian Authority promised to examine our request," said Mr. Abu Al Saad, from the occupied West Bank town of Nablus. Mr. Jibril, who called for Mr. Arafat to be killed after the signing of the declaration of principles with Israel in 1993, has his headquarters in Damascus along with nine other Palestinian opposition groups.

Algerian journalist tortured and killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian journalist kidnapped a week ago has been found murdered, the reporter's employer said Tuesday.

Aicha Benamar, 36, was killed near her home in Saoula, 20 kilometres south of Algiers, the weekly newspaper Hebdo Libre said.

Benamar, on leave from the newspaper, was abducted on Aug. 1 and tortured by attackers who then cut her throat, the paper said, adding that her body was identified on Tuesday.

No details were available on the exact details of the murder, or on who carried it out.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility for an attack on the headquarters of Habib Libe, in the centre of Algiers, in March 1994, in which three people, including a photographer, were killed and two injured.

After a four-hour battle with nine men, according to Al Watan, their mission was to cover the flight of other groups and to slow down the advance of the security forces.

Most recently, an armed group on June 18 kidnapped and cut the throat of journalist Hakim Takouchet, who worked for a regional television station in eastern Algeria.

The whereabouts of further two journalists who were kidnapped from their homes are unknown, and threats by armed groups have driven dozens of other journalists into exile.

Journalists are one of the key groups targeted by fundamentalists, especially the most radical of them the GIA.

Its former leader Mourad Si Ahmad, vowed to make those who fight "with the pen" perish by the sword.

Meanwhile, security forces killed about 100 armed Isla-

mic militants in a crackdown triggered by a bomb attack on a military vehicle near Algiers, another newspaper said.

The attack last Wednesday on the vehicle at Larbaa, 30 kilometres from Algiers, left 10 soldiers dead, the daily Al Watan said.

With a spate of recent attacks, including a truck-bomb attack on a power station near Algiers Sunday which killed 11 people, observers say violence in Algeria is escalating.

After last Wednesday's bomb attack, the security forces unleashed a "vast dragnet," said Al Watan. Arrests they carried out allowed them to track down the hideout of a group of armed militants.

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The Larbaa region is part of what is known as the "Triangle of Death," where attacks by Islamic militants fighting the military-backed government are frequent.

According to the daily La Tribune, a rocket-launcher was probably used in an attack Sunday on a police vehicle at Kouba, on the outskirts of Algiers, which killed two and wounded about ten people — and not a grenade.

They were being mediated by the United States, with a Turkish observer in attendance, Kurdish officials said.

The PUK and the KDP will try to reestablish the joint administration they formed in 1992 in Iraqi Kurdistan after seizing control of the area from Baghdad, with help from U.S., French and British military aircrews.

"We have to resolve three issues: the reestablishment of political authority, the demilitarisation of Erbil and the collection of revenue from border taxes," Fawzi Al Atroushi, the KDP's representative in London, told AFP by telephone.

He said demilitarising Erbil, controlled by the PUK since December, and the collection of taxes by the KDP along the border with Turkey and Iran, could only be set after an agreement was reached on establishing a regional administration.

"The neutralisation of Erbil will allow the Kurdish government and parliament to function again," he said.

According to an INC official in London, Kassem Ghali, the fighting paralyses "the other opposition groups, which pass their time trying to reconquer" instead of acting to topple the Iraqi regime.

Turkish troops have made several large military incursions against PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Fighting between the KDP and the PUK has caused more than 2,000 deaths since May 1994. The conflict threatens to split apart the Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups all the Iraqi opposition factions and has been supported by the United States and Britain.

According to an INC official in Ankara, Sazan Saeb, added: "It is necessary to reestablish the government so it can assume

COLLUM 8

Larry Hagman has operation on liver tumour

LOS ANGELES (R) — Larry Hagman, who became a TV legend as the villainous J.R. Ewing in the long-running Dallas series, has had bad surgery on a liver tumour to buy more time while waiting for a donor organ, his doctor said. Dr. Leoni Makowka, a liver transplant surgeon at Cedars Sinai Medical Centre, said the operation took place Saturday morning "to give Larry that extra insurance" while he waits for a new liver. Dr. Makowka said the operation consisted of bombing the tumour with chemotherapy to neutralise it. "We really blasted it," he said. The tumour was discovered last month and Hagman, 63, was immediately put on a national donor organ list.

In addition to the tumour, he is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, which was diagnosed three years ago. Dr. Makowka described the tumour as being between the size of a small rock and a golf ball and said Hagman had "absolutely no complications" from the surgery. He said Hagman was now on vacation with his wife and was wearing a beeper so he could be paged in the event a suitable liver becomes available.

Princess Anne's son asked to leave bar

SYDNEY (R) — The teenage son of Britain's Princess Anne, Peter Phillips, was asked to leave the bar area of an Australian casino for being under-age, a casino spokesman said Tuesday. The spokesman for the Conrad Jupiters Casino on the Gold Coast in Queensland said Phillips, 17, was with a group of about 20 school friends Monday night in the bistro area of an English-theme pub in the casino called The Prince Albert. The group was asked to leave the bar after 10 p.m. and as the change-over time approached the group was asked to show identification as proof of age.

"Peter was one of the boys who was under 18 and to leave," the spokesman told Reuters. "Others in the group were over 18 and they stayed on while the younger ones or ones without I.D. left. They were all very well behaved."

Clinton's friend goes to prison